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June 3, 2004

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Kim Beals, Esq., Hearing Officer c/o Sharla Dillon, Docket & Records Manager Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0505

Petition of Cellco Partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless for Arbitration Under the

Telecommunications Act of 1996, TRA Consolidated Docket No. 03-00585

Dear Hearing Officer Beals:

Witness

Attached hereto please find an original and thirteen (13) copies of the Matrix and direct testimony of (i) William H. Brown on behalf of Cingular Wireless, (ii) Billy H. Pruitt on behalf of Sprint PCS, and (iii) W. Craig Conwell on behalf of Verizon Wireless, Cingular Wireless, AT&T Wireless and T-Mobile. The direct testimony of the other CMRS Providers (as defined below) will be filed under separate cover today.

Pursuant to Hearing Officer's Beal's Order Modifying Procedural Schedule dated, April 15, 2004, the petitioners in this consolidated docket, Verizon Wireless, Cingular Wireless, AT&T Wireless, T-Mobile and Sprint PCS (collectively the "CMRS Providers"), today have filed the direct testimony of the following witnesses:

Company

Marc B Sterling	Verizon Wireless
William H. Brown	Cingular Wireless
Suzanne N. Nieman	AT&T Wireless
Greg Tedesco	T-Mobile
Billy H. Pruitt	Sprint PCS
W. Craig Conwell	Verizon Wireless, Cingular

Wireless, AT&T Wireless and

T-Mobile

Honorable Kim Beals, Esq., Hearing Officer June 3, 2004 Page 2

In order to expedite the arbitration process and to avoid repetition to the extent reasonably possible, the CMRS Providers have each assumed primary responsibility for certain designated issues in their respective testimony. Attached to this letter is a matrix (the "Matrix") that (i) lists the areas that the CMRS Providers will cover in their testimony; (ii) identifies the CMRS Provider primarily responsible for each area; and (iii) cross references the related issue from the Joint Issue Matrix submitted by the parties on March 4, 2004. To the extent not otherwise addressed by his or her individual testimony, each CMRS Provider witness generally concurs with the testimony submitted by the other CMRS Providers regarding those areas for which they assumed primary responsibility.

The enclosed documents have been served on counsel for the Rural Coalition of Small LECs and Cooperatives. If you have any questions about this filing or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (615) 744-8576.

Regards,

Grav Sasser

JGS/ktr enc.

cc: William T. Ramsey, Esq.
Stephen G. Kraskin, Esq.
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Charles W. McKee
Elaine Critides
Dan Menser
Marin Fettman
Leon M. Bloomfield

CMRS PROVIDERS' TESTIMONY MATRIX:

AREAS OF EMPHASIS AND RELATED ISSUES

CMRS PROVIDER	ÁREA OF EMPHASIS	ISSUE NO.
Each	Purpose of testimony	
Each	Witness background and experience	
Each	CMRS Providers' Service	
Each	Information regarding CMRS Providers' company, network, and service generally and in Tennessee	
Each	 Current interconnection agreements with BellSouth and conversion to meet point billing 	
Each	Exchange of traffic and interconnection agreements with the ICOs	
Each	❖ Each CMRS Provider's affiliate(s) seeking interconnection	ICO 4
Sprint PCS	o Network enlargement through management agreements	
Each	❖ Overview of numbering resources in Tennessee	Supports Issue 12
	Negotiations with ICOs	
Each	❖ with individual ICOs	
Sprint PCS	❖ collectively	

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	Arbitration Issues	
AT&T Wireless	Intermediary Carrier Participation in the Interconnection/Arbitration Process	4, 9, 3, ICO ICO 3
Sprint PCS	* Resolution of Issues Between BellSouth and the ICOs is not a Pre-requisite to Interconnection Between the ICOs and CMRS Providers	ICO 9
AT&T Wireless	Scope of the Agreement	ICO 8
	o should not be limited to transit traffic carried by BellSouth or other intermediary carriers specifically identified in the Agreement	14
- 14-16-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-	o should not be limited to indirect traffic	15
	o should not be limited to calls which originate in a certain specified area	ICO 5, 8
	o should not be limited to traffic for which accurate billing records are provided	13
	* Indirect Interconnection	
Sprint PCS	Legal obligation to provide indirect interconnection, applicability of section 251(b)(5)	1, 2
Sprint PCS	O Third party traffic can be delivered by BellSouth even if ICOs do not subtend the BellSouth tandem	ICO 2
Sprint PCS	Originating carrier bears the obligation to pay any transit costs	5
Sprint PCS	o Traffic can be co-mingled (including with "access" traffic)	6

i	❖ Direct Interconnection	
Verizon Wireless	o Why provisions regarding direct interconnection should be included in the interconnection agreement and what issues should be resolved	15
Verizon Wıreless	o Where the Point of Interconnection should be	7
Verizon Wireless	o What percentage of the cost of the interconnecting facilities should be borne by the ICOs	7
Sprint PCS	❖ Network Changes	18
	* Compensation	
Cıngular	o What laws govern (applicability of section 251(b)(5) to indirect)	2
Cıngular	o Pricing methodology and bill & keep	8
Cıngular	o Appropriateness of factors	9, 11
Cıngular	o De minimis traffic	10
Cıngular	When access charges apply	ICO 6
Sprint PCS	Scope of traffic covered by reciprocal compensation obligation	2(b)
Verizon Wireless	 Dialing Parity and Non-Discrimination in End User Rates 	12
AT&T Wireless	❖ Generic Contract Provisions	16, ICO 10
AT&T Wireless	o Termination provisions	17

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Petition of:)	
)	
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless)	Consolidated Docket
For Arbitration Under the)	No. 03-00585
Telecommunications Act of 1996)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM H. BROWN ON BEHALF OF BELLSOUTH MOBILITY LLC, BELLSOUTH PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS LLC AND CHATTANOOGA MSA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, COLLECTIVELY D/B/A CINGULAR WIRELESS

I. INTRODUCTION

		- *
1	Q.	STATE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND OCCUPATION.
2	A.	My name is William H. Brown. I am Senior Interconnection Manager for
3		Cingular Wireless ("Cingular"), and my office address is 5565 Glenridge
4		Connector, Suite 1520, Atlanta, Georgia 30342. Cingular was formed as a result
5		of the merger between the wireless properties formerly held by SBC
6		Communications and BellSouth Corporation.
7		
8	Q.	BRIEFLY STATE YOUR EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE AS IT
9		RELATES TO THE PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1		SERVICES GENERALLY AND COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO
2		SERVICE IN PARTICULAR.
3	A.	I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from North Georgia College
4		and a Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of Alabama
5		in Bırmingham (UAB). I have been employed in the communications industry for
6		thirty-eight (38) years and in wireless for twenty-two (22) years. My work
7		experience includes engineering, economic analysis, rate and tariff development
8		and filings, and regulatory responsibilities. I have testified before a number of
9		state commissions, including Georgia, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Wisconsın,
10		Alabama, Louisiana, Calıfornia, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Mississippi,
11		Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kentucky.
12		
13	Q.	WHAT CINGULAR AFFILIATES ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDING
14		COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE IN TENNESSEE?
15	A.	Cingular is currently providing Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") in
16		Tennessee through the following affiliates: BellSouth Mobility LLC, BellSouth
17		Personal Communications, LLC and Chattanooga MSA Limited Partnership.
18		
19	Q.	HAS CINGULAR NEGOTIATED INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS
20		WITH ANY LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS IN TENNESSEE?
21	A.	Yes. Cingular has negotiated interconnection agreements with BellSouth and
22		Highland Telephone Cooperative in Tennessee. Those agreements, including
23		amendments, have been approved by and filed with the TRA. Cingular is

1		currently involved in negotiations with Sprint United in Tennessee. The parties
2		have entered into an interim arrangement pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 51.715 while
3		negotiations continue.
4		
5		A. Direct and Indirect Interconnection
6	Q.	HOW DOES CINGULAR EXCHANGE TRAFFIC WITH BELLSOUTH
7		AND HIGHLAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE?
8	A.	Cingular has established direct interconnection trunks with both BellSouth and
9		Highland. Traffic exchanged between Cingular and those two companies is
10		carried on the direct trunks. No third-party facilities are involved.
11		
12	Q.	HOW DOES CINGULAR EXCHANGE TRAFFIC WITH ALL MEMBERS
13		OF THE RURAL COALITION EXCEPT HIGHLAND TELEPHONE
14		COOPERATIVE?
15	A.	Because of the relatively low traffic volumes, Cingular has not established direct
16		interconnection trunks with the other members of the Rural Coalition
17		("Independent Telephone Companies" or "ICOs"). Instead, Cingular and the
18		members of the Rural Coalition have direct connections with BellSouth. Traffic
19		between Cingular and those ICOs thus "transits" BellSouth facilities. This is
20		referred to as "indirect" interconnection.
21		,
22	Q.	HOW DOES CINGULAR DETERMINE WHEN TO ESTABLISH DIRECT
23		INTERCONNECTION TRUNKS WITH A LOCAL EXCHANGE

1 CARRIER?

A. Economics is the determining factor. The amount of traffic exchanged with any carrier must reach a certain economic threshold to justify the cost to Cingular of direct trunks. When traffic volumes are small, Cingular generally will choose indirect interconnection through the BellSouth network. When traffic volumes rise to the economic threshold, Cingular generally will choose direct interconnection.

8

9

10

Q. ARE ANY OTHER FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH DIRECT INTERCONNECTION TRUNKS?

11 A. Yes. If Cingular customers want numbers rated in the local calling scope of an
12 ICO, the ICO requires Cingular to establish a direct interconnection trunk with
13 that ICO to obtain such numbers.

14

15

19

20

21

22

23

A.

B. Meet Point Billing Arrangements

16 Q. HAVE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CINGULAR, BELLSOUTH
17 AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL COALITION CHANGED IN THE
18 PAST YEAR? IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Yes. Prior to July 31, 2003, Cingular terminated traffic to the Coalition Members pursuant to pre-Telecom Act agreements with BellSouth. Pursuant to these agreements, Cingular would make certain payments to BellSouth, and BellSouth, under separate agreements with the ICOs, would make certain payments to the Coalition members. Cingular did not receive any compensation from either

BellSouth or the Coalition members for terminating traffic originated by the Coalition. In addition, the rates that Cingular paid BellSouth (and BellSouth paid the ICOs) were based on the ICOs' intrastate switched access charges, which are significantly higher than the TELRIC-based, transport and termination rates authorized by the Telecom Act and implementing FCC Regulations.

On July 31, 2003, Cingular entered into a "meet point billing" agreement with BellSouth in which Cingular agreed to pay BellSouth a transiting fee for all traffic originated by Cingular and delivered to BellSouth for termination to a Coalition member. Implicit in this agreement was the understanding that Cingular would compensate the Coalition members directly for the termination of Cingular intraMTA traffic (based on appropriate transport and termination rates, not switched access rates), and that Cingular would seek compensation directly from the Coalition members for intraMTA traffic terminated by Cingular (based also on appropriate transport and termination rates).

Since August 4, 2003, pursuant to an Order of the TRA, Cingular has been in negotiations with the Coalition to establish interconnection agreements that would establish the compensation paid by Cingular to the ICOs and vice-versa.. Negotiations have failed to resolve all issues, leading to the current arbitration. Consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 51.715, Cingular has offered an interim reciprocal compensation agreement to each Coalition member, which was, and continues to

¹ One of the primary benefits of Meet Point Billing is to provide call detail records to both the originating and terminating carrier.

1		be, rejected. ²
2		C. Failure To Produce Cost Support
3	Q.	DURING NEGOTIATIONS, HAVE THE ICOS PRODUCED ANY COST
4		SUPPORT?
5	A.	No. This has been the single most frustrating aspect of this entire proceeding.
6		Cingular and the other CMRS Providers have repeatedly requested ICO cost data
7		so that the CMRS Providers can determine an appropriate transport and
8		termination rate. The ICOs have refused to produce any cost data at all and have
9		provided no justification for the refusal.
10		
11	Q.	AFTER THE FILING OF THE CONSOLIDATED ARBITRATION
12		PETITIONS, DID THE CMRS PROVIDERS REQUEST COST DATA?
13	A.	Yes. The CMRS Providers served upon the ICOs interrogatories and requests for
14		production asking for all ICO cost support. As of the date of the filing of my
15		direct testimony, the ICOs are still refusing to provide any cost data. This refusal
16		is currently one of the subjects of the CMRS Providers' Motion to Compel.
17		
18	Q.	DO FCC REGULATIONS REQUIRE THE ICOS TO PRODUCE COST
19		SUPPORT?
20	A.	Yes. 47 CFR § 51.301(a) states:
21 22 23		"An incumbent LEC shall negotiate in good faith the terms and conditions of agreements to fulfill the duties established by sections 251(b) and (c) of the Act."
24 25		The Regulation goes on to give specific examples of a breach of the duty to

² ICOs in other states, however, have agreed to such interim arrangements with Cingular

1		negotiate in good faith. Section 51.301(c)(8)(ii) states:
2 3 4 5		"If proven to the Commission, an appropriate state commission, or a court of competent jurisdiction, the following actions or practices, among others, violate the duty to negotiate in good faith:
6 7 8		(ii) Refusal by an incumbent LEC to furnish cost data that would be relevant to setting rates if the parties were in arbitration.
9		Not only did the ICOs refuse to provide cost data during negotiations, they have
10		continued to refuse to provide it during this arbitration. According to the FCC
11		Regulations, I believe the ICOs have violated their duty to negotiate in good faith.
12		
13	Q.	SHOULD THE ICOS BE ALLOWED TO PRODUCE COST DATA IN
14		DIRECT OR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?
15	A.	If the ICOs should attempt to include cost data in their direct or rebuttal
16		testimony, I believe that such testimony should be stricken. The TRA should not
17		condone the ICOs' failure to comply with direct FCC Regulations. Allowance of
18		such testimony would greatly prejudice the CMRS Providers, who would have
19		had no opportunity to examine the material in the necessary fashion prescribed by
20		FCC Regulations.
21		
22		D. Matrix Issues Discussed in Testimony
23	Q.	WILL YOUR TESTIMONY DISCUSS EACH ISSUE ON THE JOINT
24		ISSUES MATRIX?
25	A.	No. In an effort to streamline testimony and avoid duplication, the CMRS
26		Providers have agreed that each CMRS witness will discuss different issues on the
27		Joint Issues Matrix. My testimony will discuss the compensation issues in dispute
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

1	between the Civiks Floviders and the ICOs. Those issues are shown in the Join
2	Issues Matrix as follows:
3	Issue 2Do the reciprocal compensation requirements of 47
4	U.S.C. § 251 (b)(5) and the related negotiation and arbitration
5	process in § 252(b) apply to traffic exchanged indirectly by a
6	CMRS provider and an ICO?
7	
8	Issue 8What is the appropriate pricing methodology for
9	establishing a reciprocal compensation rate?
10	
11	Issue 9Assuming the TRA does not adopt bill and keep as the
12	compensation mechanism, should the Parties agree on a factor to
13	use as a proxy for the mobile-to-land and land-to-mobile traffic
14	balance if the CMRS provider does not measure traffic?
15	
16	Issue 10Assuming the TRA does not adopt bill and keep as the
17	compensation mechanism for all traffic exchanged, and if a CMRS
18	Provider and an ICO are exchanging only a de minimis amount of
19	traffic, should they compensate each other on a bill and keep basis?
20	T 44 01 11.4
21	Issue 11Should the parties establish a factor to delineate what
22	percentage of traffic is interMTA and thereby subject to access
23	rates? If so, what should the factor be?
24	ICO Icono (Chauld access shows a surfact at the control of
25 26	ICO Issue 6Should access charges apply to both the origination
27	and termination of interMTA traffic on the networks of the ICOs?
28	These issues primarily involve Appendix A to the Interconnection Agreement
29	proposed by the CMRS Providers and attached to each Petition for Arbitration.
30	The ultimate outcome of this arbitration will be an Interconnection Agreement
31	between each of the CMRS Providers and each ICO. Therefore, in addition to
32	discussing the above issues on the Joint Issues Matrix, I will also discuss why th
33	provisions contained in the CMRS Providers' proposed contract are appropriate
34	and should be adopted by the TRA.

In that regard, I will also discuss the net billing provisions in Appendix A of the CMRS providers' proposed contract. Although net billing is not an issue in the Joint Issues Matrix, I will explain why the Interconnection Agreements between the CMRS Providers and ICOs should contain a net billing option.

Other topics on the Joint Issues Matrix will be discussed by witnesses for the other CMRS Providers.³

E. Contracts Proposed by Rural Coalition

Q. HAVE THE MEMBERS OF THE RURAL COALITION PROPOSED A CONTRACT?

A. Yes. In fact, the Rural Coalition has proposed two contracts. Exhibit 1 to the Rural Coalition's 100 page Response to the Petitions for Arbitration is a proposed "Multi-Party Agreement." This document is intended to be executed by the CMRS Providers, the Coalition members and BellSouth. Exhibit 2 is a "CMRS-LEC Agreement" that is intended to be executed only by the ICOs and CMRS Providers. The Rural Coalition believes, however, that "[a]greements with the CMRS providers cannot be finalized prior to the resolution of necessary terms and conditions with BellSouth that arise as a result of the indirect interconnection terms and conditions sought by the CMRS providers." In other words, the two-party agreement proposed by the Coalition with the CMRS Providers would be dependent upon a separate two party agreement reached by the ICOs with

See Cingular's Petition for Arbitration for Cingular's position regarding issues not discussed in this testimony

See ICOs' Response, p 17

1	BellSouth. It is thus extremely difficult, in many instances, to determine exactly
2	what the ICOs' position currently is on a particular issue, because the proposals in
3	the two-party agreement between the ICOs and CMRS Providers are dependent
4	upon other, potentially inconsistent, provisions in the two-party agreement
5	between the ICOs and BellSouth.
6	
7	For example, on the issue of reciprocal compensation for traffic exchanged
8	through indirect interconnection, the ICOs' proposed two-party contract with
9	CMRS Providers states at § 4.5.1:
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	"[OPEN Subject to Change and the resolution of other terms and conditions with Intermediary Provider] With respect to Intermediary Traffic that is IntraMTA ("IntraMTA Intermediary Traffic") and with respect to a specific Intermediary Provider, CMRS Carrier and Rural LEC agree that the originating Party will pay compensation to the terminating Party pursuant to the rates, measurement methods, minutes of use calculation, and percentage traffic values set forth in Appendix X. Compensation for both Parties will be based on a single, combined, per-minute rate, as specified in Appendix X, which encompasses total compensation to either Party for Transport and call Termination of the specific intraMTA Intermediary Traffic." At first blush, this language sounds similar to the language contained in the
24	beginning of Section IV of the CMRS Providers' proposed contract:
25	"The Parties may elect to exchange Traffic directly and/or
26	indirectly as specified in Sections A. and B. below. The Parties
27	agree that they shall compensate each other for the Traffic
28	exchanged on a reciprocal and symmetrical basis at the rates
29	specified in Appendix A."
30	
31	Both contractual provisions appear to say that in the case of indirect
32	interconnection, the originating party will pay transport and termination charges

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to the terminating party. However, the ICOs' proposed language is prefaced with the following: "Subject to Change and the resolution of other terms and conditions with Intermediary Provider." As I will discuss in detail below, the ICOs believe that when a CMRS Provider sends intraMTA traffic through the BellSouth network for termination to an ICO, BellSouth should pay terminating compensation to the ICO (apparently at switched access rates, though this is not completely clear). And when an ICO sends intraMTA traffic through the BellSouth network for termination to a CMRS Provider, the ICOs may be taking the position that they should pay nothing to the CMRS Provider, though this point is unclear.

Thus, although the contractual language contained in the ICOs' proposed twoparty agreement with CMRS Providers would appear to be similar to the language
proposed by the CMRS Providers, such language is, in fact, "subject to change,"
depending upon potentially inconsistent agreements that the ICOs would attempt
to force upon BellSouth. For that reason, my testimony will concentrate more on
the ICOs' positions as expressed in their Response, and less on the fluid and
conditional language contained in the ICOs' proposed two-party agreement.

The key point to keep in mind is that, from the ICOs' view, it appears that a simple two-party agreement between an ICO and a CMRS Provider, dealing with indirect interconnection and compensation, is not possible. When indirect interconnection is involved, the ICOs contend that agreements with BellSouth

1		must always be incorporated into the final outcome. In short, according to the	
2		ICOs, indirect interconnection must always involve three parties rather than two	
3		separate agreements between two parties. As discussed immediately below,	
4		however, the ICOs' position in incorrect, as the Hearing Officer has already ruled	
5		in this case.	
6			
7	Q.	HAS THE HEARING OFFICER ALREADY DECIDED THAT	
8		BELLSOUTH NEED NOT BE A PARTY TO THE INTERCONNECTION	
9		AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CMRS PROVIDERS AND ICOS?	
10	A.	Yes. In overruling the ICOs' Motion to Dismiss, the Hearing Officer stated:	
11 12 13 14 15		" there is still no provision in federal law to allow for the three-way arbitration and interconnection agreements proposed by the Coalition, especially when the other two intended parties object to such an arrangement, and when such an arrangement has, in fact, been previously prohibited by the TRA."	
17		This language makes clear that Exhibit 1 to the ICOs' Response (the proposed	
18		three-party agreement) is inappropriate and should not be considered in this	
19		proceeding.	
20			
21		The above language also makes clear that the ICOs' proposed two-party	
22		agreement with CMRS Providers is defective to the extent that such agreement is	
23		"subject to change" based upon potentially inconsistent conditions that the ICOs	
24		would attempt to force upon BellSouth.	
25			
26		II. SPECIFIC MATRIX ISSUES	

1		A. ISSUE 2
2	Q.	DO RECIPROCAL COMPENSTION OBLIGATIONS APPLY TO
3		TRAFFIC INDIRECTLY EXCHANGED BETWEEN A CMRS PROVIDER
4		AND AN ICO; IN OTHER WORDS, TRAFFIC THAT TRANSITS A
5		BELLSOUTH TANDEM?
6	A.	Yes. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act") defines the duty of all
7		telecommunications carriers "to interconnect directly or indirectly with the
8		facilities and equipment of other telecommunications carriers." 47 U.S.C.
9		§ 251(a)(1). After the passage of the Act, the FCC reiterated this view:
10 11 12 13 14		[W]e conclude that telecommunications carriers should be permitted to provide interconnection pursuant to section 251(a) either directly or indirectly, based upon their most efficient technical and economic choices. ⁵
15		For purposes of intercarrier compensation, neither the Act nor the applicable FCC
16		Regulation makes any distinction between traffic exchanged directly (through a
17		trunk connecting the CMRS Provider's network to the ICO's network) and traffic
18		exchanged indirectly (through a BellSouth tandem, when the CMRS Provider and
19		ICO both connect directly to BellSouth, but not to each other). Reciprocal
20		compensation principles apply to both cases:
21 22 23 24 25 26 27		"Each local exchange carrier has the following duties: (5) RECIPROCAL COMPENSATIONThe duty to establish reciprocal compensation arrangements for the transport and termination of telecommunications." 47 U.S.C. § 251(b)(5).

In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Interconnection between Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers, FCC No 96-325, 11 FCC Rcd 15499, ¶ 997 (rel. Aug 8, 1996) ("Local Competition First Report and Order").

1		"Each LEC shall establish reciprocal compensation arrangements
2		for transport and termination of telecommunications traffic with
3		any requesting telecommunications carrier." 47 CFR § 51.703(a).
4		
5		The FCC defines "telecommunications traffic," when it involves a CMRS
6		provider, to be:
7		traffic exchanged between a LEC and a CMRS provider
8		that, at the beginning of the call, originates and terminates
9		within the same Major Trading Area, as defined in §
10		24.202(a) of this Chapter.
11		
12		No distinction is made between direct and indirect traffic. As a result, the
13		Oklahoma and Iowa Commissions have recognized that reciprocal compensation
14		principles apply to all telecommunications traffic exchanged either directly or
15		indirectly.6 The decision of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission on this issue
16		was recently affirmed by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of
17		Oklahoma. ⁷
18		
19	Q. V	WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT TO CINGULAR AND THE OTHER
20		CMRS PROVIDERS?
21	A.	As I discussed above, when a relatively small amount of traffic is exchanged, it is
22		often uneconomical for a CMRS Provider to establish direct interconnection
23		trunks with an ICO. As I will discuss below, the ICOs appear to take the position

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See Corporation Commission of the State of Oklahoma, In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern Bell Wireless L L C et al for Arbitration Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Cause Nos. PUD 200200149, PUD 200200150, PUD 200200151, and PUD 200200153, Final Order, Order No. 468958 (Oct 22, 2002), Iowa Utilities Board, In Re Exchange of Transit Traffic, Docket Nos. SPU-00-7, TF-00-275, (DRU-00-2), Order Denying Application for Rehearing (May 3, 2002). Copies of this Final Order were filed with the Authority in this Docket on April 14, 2004, and were served on counsel for the ICOs

See Atlas Telephone Co et al v Corporation Commission of Oklahoma, et al, Order of March 5, 2004, Case Nos. DIV-03-0347-F, CIV-03-0348-F, CIV-03-0349-F and CIV-03--350-F, United States

25		CONTRACT INVOLVE THIS ISSUE?
24	Q.	WHAT SECTIONS OF THE CMRS PROVIDERS' PROPOSED
23		
22		direct and indirect interconnection.
21		interconnection agreements that apply reciprocal compensation principles to both
20		This finding by the Hearing Officer indicates that the ICOs must negotiate
15 16 17 18 19		"Whether the exchange of traffic between two such carriers is direct or indirect via the BellSouth network, explicit in federal law is the duty of each Coalition member to each CMRS provider, as the requesting carrier, to arrange for reciprocal compensation."
14		motion, the Hearing Officer found:
13		to Dismiss the Arbitration Petitions of the CMRS Providers. In overruling the
12	A.	In my opinion, yes. At the beginning of this proceeding, the ICOs filed a Motion
11		BEEN DECIDED IN THIS PROCEEDING?
10		PRINCIPLES APPLY TO INDIRECT INTERCONNECTION ALREADY
9	Q.	HAS THE ISSUE WHETHER RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION
8		
7		position violates the FCC's requirement that compensation be reciprocal.
6		traffic but would receive nothing in return for terminating the ICOs' traffic. This
5		would be forced to pay termination charges when the ICOs terminate Cingular's
4		(with which Cingular has established a direct interconnection trunk), Cingular
3		adopted, then for every ICO member except Highland Telephone Cooperative
2		Providers in the absence of a direct interconnection trunk. If this position were
1		that they do not owe reciprocal compensation to Cingular and the other CMRS

1	A.	The contract proposed by the CMRS Providers is attached as Exhibit 2 to	
2		Cingular's Petition for Arbitration. The beginning of Section IV of that proposed	
3		contract states:	
4 5 6 7 8 9		"The Parties may elect to exchange Traffic directly and/or indirectly as specified in Sections A. and B. below. The Parties agree that they shall compensate each other for the Traffic exchanged on a reciprocal and symmetrical basis at the rates specified in Appendix A."	
10		Section IV.B.1 states:	
11 12 13 14 15 16		All Traffic that is not exchanged via Direct Interconnection Facilities shall be exchanged indirectly, and the point of interconnection for both Parties for Reciprocal Compensation purposes shall be at the point where ILEC's network interconnects with the network of an intermediate third party LEC to whom both ILEC and CMRS Carrier are each interconnected.	
18		These provisions are consistent with the findings of the Hearing Officer and	
19		federal law and make clear that traffic exchanged through indirect interconnection	
20		is subject to reciprocal compensation principles. Accordingly, the TRA should	
21		adopt these provisions.	
22			
23	Q.	DO THE ICOS AGREE THAT RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION	
24		PRINCIPLES APPLY TO TRAFFIC EXCHANGED THROUGH	
25		INDIRECT INTERCONNECTION?	
26	A.	No. Although, as I discussed above, some language in the ICOs' proposed two-	
27		party agreement may give the impression that the ICOs agree with the CMRS	
28		Providers on this issue, the ICOs actually believe that BellSouth should	
29		compensate them for CMRS-originated traffic sent through a BellSouth tandem.	

1 "The ICOs abide by Section 251(a) and receive CMRS Provider 2 traffic connected to them indirectly by BellSouth. Compliance, however, requires nothing more and most certainly no law, rule or 3 regulation states than an ICO must not hold BellSouth (or any 4 physically connecting carrier) responsible for the traffic BellSouth 5 elects to carry to the ICO end office."8 6 7 Regarding ICO-originated traffic that is sent through a BellSouth tandem for 8 9 termination to the CMRS Providers, the ICOs' position is unclear. I am uncertain 10 if the ICOs agree that they have reciprocal compensation obligations to the CMRS 11 Providers for indirect traffic. Thus, it is very important for the final decision in 12 this arbitration to state clearly that when the ICOs and CMRS Providers exchange 13 intraMTA traffic through the BellSouth network, reciprocal compensation 14 principles apply to both the CMRS Providers and the ICOs. 15 16 **B. ISSUE 8** WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE PRICING METHODOLOGY FOR 17 Q. ESTABLISHING A RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION RATE BETWEEN 18 19 THE CMRS PROVIDERS AND ICOS? 20 A. In general, because of the ICOs' failure to produce (1) forward-looking cost 21 studies and (2) balance-of-traffic studies, FCC Regulations mandate that the TRA 22 adopt bill-and-keep as the appropriate compensation mechanism. Bill-and-keep 23 would remain the appropriate compensation mechanism, until the Commission 24 orders otherwise, based on each ICO's presenting (1) a valid, forward-looking cost 25 study, and (2) a valid balance of traffic study.

⁸ ICOs' Response, p 23.

1	Q.	IN ESTABLISHING TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION RATES, WHAT		
2		OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE TRA?		
3	A.	Cingular and the ICOs are negotiating interconnection agreements pursuant to the		
4		Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires all telecommunications carriers		
5		"to establish reciprocal compensation arrangements for the transport and		
6		termination of telecommunications." 47 U.S.C. § 251(b)(5). In implementing		
7		this provision of federal law, the FCC has promulgated rules (47 C.F.R. §		
8		51.705(a)) that allow transport and termination rates to be established by one of		
9		three methods:		
10 11 12		An incumbent LEC's rates for transport and termination of telecommunications traffic shall be established, at the election of the state commission, on the basis of:		
13 14 15 16 17		(1) The forward-looking economic costs of such offerings, using a cost study pursuant to §§ 51.505 and 51.511;		
18		(2) Default proxies, as provided in § 51.707; or		
19 20 21 22		(3) A bill-and-keep arrangement, as provided in § 51.713.		
23		The status of default proxies is unclear; arguably they have been invalidated and		
24		are not properly available for consideration.9 Thus, practically, only two		
25		alternatives are clearly available to the TRA for establishing ICO rates: (1)		
26		forward-looking rates based on appropriate cost studies, or (2) bill-and-keep. 10		

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Iowa Utilities Bd v F C C, 219 F 3d 744 (8th Cir 2000).

[&]quot;States have three options for establishing transport and termination rate levels A state commission may conduct a thorough review of economic studies prepared using the TELRIC-based methodology outlined above in the section on the pricing of interconnection and unbundled elements. Alternatively, the state may adopt a default price pursuant to the default proxies outlined below If the state adopts a default price, it must either commence review of a TELRIC-based economic cost study, request that this Commission review such a study, or subsequently modify the default price in accordance with any

1				
2	Q.	IF THE TRA ESTABLISHES A RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION RATE,		
3		MUST IT APPLY TO BOTH THE ICOS AND THE CMRS PROVIDERS?		
4	A.	Yes. 47 C.F.R. § 51.711(a) states unequivocally that "[r]ates for transport and		
5		termination of local telecommunications traffic shall be symmetrical."		
6		[Emphasis added.]		
7				
8	Q.	HOW MUST A RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION RATE BE		
9		DETERMINED?		
10		A. FCC regulations require that reciprocal compensation rates be established		
11		on the basis of the ICOs' "forward looking costs" of transport and termination,		
12		using an appropriate cost study. 47 C.F.R. § 51.705. The FCC defines "forward-		
13		looking costs" in §51.505 as the sum of total element long-run incremental cost		
14		("TELRIC") and a reasonable allocation of forward-looking common costs. In 47		
15		C.F.R. §51.505 (e), the FCC further states that rates shall not exceed the forward-		
16		looking economic costs.		
17 18 19 20 21 22 23		(e) <u>Cost study requirements</u> . An incumbent LEC must prove to the state commission that the rates for each element it offers do not exceed the forward-looking economic cost per unit of providing the element, using a cost study that complies with the methodology set forth in this section and §51.511 of this part.		

revised proxies we may adopt. As previously noted, we intend to commence a future rulemaking on developing proxies using a generic cost model, and to complete such proceeding in the first quarter of 1997. As a third alternative, in some circumstances states may order a "bill and keep" arrangement, as discussed below." *Local Competition First Report and Order*, ¶ 1055.

Q. MAY A SINGLE COMPOSITE RATE BE ESTABLISHED TO APPLY TO ALL ICOS?

A. No. The regulation quoted immediately above requires each ICO to present its own cost study. The regulation does not allow one study for multiple companies, nor does it allow a single rate to be averaged among several companies.

8 Q. MUST TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION RATES REFLECT

COMPANY-SPECIFIC COSTS?

A. Yes. For example, the termination costs of Ardmore Telephone Company (one of the ICOs) should reflect the forward-looking switching costs per minute of use for that particular company. Likewise, the termination costs of Peoples Telephone Company (another of the ICOs), should reflect the forward-looking switching costs of Peoples, not Ardmore. If a company uses Nortel's DMS10 switching system, switch investment per line should reflect the current vendor engineered, furnished and installed costs, after discounts, for a new or replacement switch from the vendor. Land, building and other support asset costs should reflect only the assets supporting central office equipment and their current costs for the particular company involved. Operating expenses should reflect current switch maintenance expenses for each particular company, exclusive of provisioning expenses. Because each ICO's transport and termination rate must be based upon costs specific to that company, a composite rate is not appropriate.

Q. WHAT COST DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED FROM THE ICOS?

A. Section 51.505(e)(2) specifically requires "a written factual record that is sufficient for purposes of review". It also requires the cost study to be included in the record of this proceeding if the cost study is considered by the TRA for purposes of establishing a transport and termination rate for any ICO.

5

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Q. HAVE THE ICOS PRODUCED FORWARD-LOOKING COST STUDIES?

7 No. Despite the requirement of 47 C.F.R. § 51.301(c)(8)(ii) to negotiate in good A. 8 faith by providing "cost data that would be relevant to setting rates if the parties 9 were in arbitration," the ICOs have failed to produce any cost data or forward-10 looking cost studies. This is so despite the FCC's holding that "an incumbent 11 LEC may not deny a requesting carrier's reasonable request for cost data during the negotiation process, because we conclude that such information is necessary 12 13 for the requesting carrier to determine whether the rates offered by the incumbent LEC are reasonable."11 As discussed above, the ICOs have even refused to 14 15 produce cost data in response to interrogatories and requests for production served 16 upon them in this docket.

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Q. CAN THE TRA ESTABLISH RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION RATES FOR EACH ICO?

A. No. 47 C.F.R. §51.505 (e) requires each ICO to support its transport and termination rate with a forward-looking cost study. Without such a study, the TRA cannot establish a rate.

Local Competition First Report and Order, ¶ 155

1		
2	Q.	WHAT ALTERNATIVE IS LEFT FOR ESTABLISHING A RECIPROCAL
3		COMPENSATION RATE FOR EACH ICO?
4	A.	Because the ICOs have failed to produce the required cost studies, the only
5		alternative left to the TRA under federal lawfor establishing reciprocal
6		compensation ratesis bill-and-keep.
7		
8	Q.	WHAT IS BILL-AND-KEEP?
9	A.	Under the bill-and-keep compensation method, neither party bills the other for
10		terminating traffic. Instead, each carrier is compensated for terminating the
11		other's traffic by reciprocal termination of its own traffic at no charge. Thus, 47
12		C.F.R. § 51.713(a) defines bill-and-keep arrangements as:
13 14 15 16 17		" those in which neither of the two interconnecting carriers charges the other for the termination of telecommunications traffic that originates on the other carrier's network."
18	Q.	UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAY THE TRA ESTABLISH BILL-
19		AND-KEEP AS THE APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION MECHANISM
20		BETWEEN THE CMRS PROVIDERS AND ICOS?
21	A.	47 CFR § 51.713(b) allows a state commission to impose bill-and-keep as the
22		required method of reciprocal compensation if the amount of telecommunications
23		traffic between the parties is "roughly balanced." Moreover, under subsection (c)
24		of § 51.713, a state commission may presume that traffic is roughly balanced
25		"unless a party rebuts such a presumption." This provision places the burden of

proof on the party asserting unbalanced traffic, both as to going forward with the evidence and the burden of persuasion. The FCC does not require that traffic be exactly balanced, and the state commission has discretion to establish thresholds for determining that the traffic is roughly balanced.¹²

The above-quoted FCC Regulations would still allow the TRA to impose bill-and-keep as the appropriate form of reciprocal compensation even if each ICO had produced an appropriate forward-looking cost study. If traffic is roughly in balance, then bill-and-keep should be applied, because each company will end up billing roughly the same amount to the other company.

In the present case, of course, there are no cost studies and no traffic studies. The absence of cost studies leaves the TRA with no options. For example, even if there were evidence that the traffic exchanged between the ICOs and CMRS Providers were not roughly in balance, the TRA could not establish a transport and termination rate, because there are no appropriate cost studies.

Q. SHOULD THE TRA APPLY BILL-AND-KEEP AS THE RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION METHOD BETWEEN THE CMRS PROVIDERS AND THE ICOS?

21 A. Yes. In response to a specific CMRS Provider interrogatory, the ICOs have stated
22 that they "cannot determine the ratios of traffic that is transmitted pursuant to the
23 existing indirect arrangement through BellSouth." The ICOs have also admitted

¹² Id, ¶¶ 1113-14.

1		that they have conducted no traffic studies to determine if the traffic between		
2		them and the CMRS Providers is "roughly balanced."		
3				
4		FCC Regulations allow the TRA to presume that traffic is roughly balanced and		
5		to impose bill-and-keep because of such presumption. In the present case,		
6		because of the ICOs' failure to produce appropriate cost or traffic studies, bill-		
7		and-keep is the only option available to the TRA.		
8				
9	Q.	HAS ANY OTHER STATE COMMISSION ADOPTED BILL-AND-KEEP		
10		UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES?		
11	A.	Yes. In the summer of 2002, several CMRS Providers engaged in a § 252		
12		arbitration with a large number of Oklahoma ICOs that did not produce		
13		appropriate forward-looking cost studies or traffic studies. The Oklahoma		
14		Corporation Commission ruled:		
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		"Because no forward-looking rate was established, and traffic is roughly balanced, bill-and-keep should be adopted as the appropriate mechanism for providing reciprocal compensation. Any party may seek to establish rates in a subsequent docket, but must present an individual cost study that complies with the Act, and must show that establishing rates and rendering bills is more economically appropriate than bill-and-keep."		
25	Q.	HAS THE DECISION OF THE OKLAHOMA CORPORATION		
26		COMMISSION BEEN UPHELD ON APPEAL?		

See Issue 4 of the Issues Matrix attached to the Final Order of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission filed in this Docket on April 14, 2004

1	A.	Yes. The United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma has			
2		recently upheld the Oklahoma Commission's decision to impose bill-and-keep in			
3		the absence of appropriate cost and traffic studies.			
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		"Clearly, these rules allow a state commission to place the burden of proof on carriers asserting that traffic is not in balancehere, the RTCs. It is also clear that they authorize commissions to invoke a presumption of roughly balanced traffic unless the commission finds that such a presumption has been adequately rebutted. Invoking this presumption is exactly what the Oklahoma Corporation Commission did when it stated in its Interlocutory Order (reaffirmed at p.3 of the Commissions' Final Orders), that 'there is a presumption of balanced traffic." 14			
15 16	Q.	IF THE TRA ESTABLISHES BILL-AND-KEEP AS THE RECIPROCAL			
17		COMPENSATION MECHANISM, WILL THAT PREVENT THE ICOS			
18		FROM LATER PRESENTING APPROPRIATE COST AND TRAFFIC			
19		STUDIES AND ESTABLISHING TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION			
20		RATES?			
21	A.	No. As indicated above, the Oklahoma Commission allowed the ICOs to present			
22		appropriate cost and traffic studies in a subsequent proceeding. The TRA can			
23		adopt the same principle here.			
24					
25	Q.	TO ESTABLISH BILL-AND-KEEP AS THE APPROPRIATE			
26		COMPENSATION MECHANISM, WHAT PROVISIONS OF THE CMRS			
27		PROVIDERS' PROPOSED CONTRACT SHOULD THE TRA ADOPT?			

See page 12 of the Order of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, filed in the Docket on April 14, 2004 (The ICOs have appealed this Order to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals)

A. Appendix A to the CMRS Providers' proposed contract contains the compensation provisions. Specifically, Section I.A contains the rates for intraMTA traffic for both direct and indirect interconnection. To effectuate bill-and-keep, the TRA should adopt Appendix A, and the rates for direct and indirect interconnection should be shown as "Bill-and Keep."

A.

Q. WHAT PRICING METHODOLOGY IS PROPOSED BY THE ICOS?

As I discussed above, generally speaking it is difficult to determine the ICOs' position on any particular issue. As nearly as I can determine, the ICOs' proposed two-party agreement with CMRS Providers contains no indication of the appropriate pricing methodology. Nor does the proposed two-party agreement contain a transport and termination rate. Instead, the various compensation provisions refer to a rate established in "Appendix X." That Appendix is not included with the proposed two-party agreement.

The ICOs' Response, to which the proposed two-party agreement with CMRS Providers is attached, devotes nine pages to a discussion of Issue 2. Like the proposed two-party agreement, the Response also fails to propose a rate.

Regarding pricing methodology, I believe the ICOs' primary position to be as follows. Reciprocal compensation and the FCC's pricing standards are not

applicable to indirect interconnection.¹⁵ Thus, according to the ICOs, they don't have to pay reciprocal compensation for such traffic, nor do they have to produce appropriate cost studies to support their rates. Therefore, they don't have to provide a pricing methodology. 16

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As I have discussed above, however, this position finds no support in the Act or implementing FCC Regulations, and the Hearing Officer has already ruled against it. Once such a ruling is made, the ICOs' house-of-cards collapses. If reciprocal compensation obligations apply to traffic exchanged through indirect interconnection (and they do), then the ICOs' failure to produce appropriate cost studies leaves bill-and-keep as the only option available to the TRA.

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The ICOs' Response also points out that, because the ICOs are rural LECs, they "are not subject to the FCC's specific pricing rules by virtue of the protections afforded Rural Telephone Companies under Section 251(f)(1) of the Act."17 Section 251(f)(1) does allow qualifying Rural LECs to be exempt from the provisions of § 251(c). However, the ICOs have not apparently claimed the rural exemption, because as their Response points out, the CMRS Providers have the right in this proceeding "to demonstrate that the protections afforded by Section

ICOs' Response, p 66. "Neither the concept of 'reciprocal compensation,' nor the associated pricing standard is applicable to the 'indirect' Section 251(a) interconnection arrangement chosen by the CMRS providers "

Thus, the ICOs' Response states " the fact that the ICOs have not provided costly company specific economic cost studies is consistent with the fact that the pricing standard is inapplicable " See p 67 17

ICOs' Response, p 64

1		252(f)(1) of the Act should no longer apply with respect to the pricing
2		methodology applicable to the ICOs."18
3		
4	Q.	IS THE POSITION ADOPTED BY THE ICOS IN THIS PROCEEDING
5		SIMILAR TO THE POSITION ADOPTED BY THE OKLAHOMA ICOS?
6	A.	The position is virtually identical, with one noticeable difference. As a fall-back
7		position, the Oklahoma ICOs also introduced a single cost study that would have
8		established a uniform intraMTA transport and termination rate for all ICOs of ten
9		cents per minute. In the present case, the Tennessee ICOs have not produced a
10		fall-back cost study. They simply say that reciprocal compensation principles
11		don't apply to indirect traffic. If they lose that argument, and they already have in
12		the ruling on their Motion to Dismiss, there is nothing to fall back upon.
13		
14	Q.	WAS THE OKLAHOMA ICOS' FALL-BACK RATE OF TEN CENTS PER
15		MINUTE ADOPTED IN OKLAHOMA?

A. No. That rate was based on an access cost study, not a TELRIC-based study for transport and termination rates. The Arbitrator and the Oklahoma Commission both held that the study was inappropriate for reciprocal compensation purposes since it did not meet the requirements of federal law.

21 Q. WERE YOU INVOLVED IN THE OKLAHOMA PROCEEDING?

22 A. Yes. I filed direct and rebuttal testimony on behalf of Cingular Wireless and otherwise participated fully in the entire three-day hearing.

16

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⁸ Id

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2		C. ISSUE 9
3	Q.	ASSUMING THE TRA DOES NOT ADOPT BILL AND KEEP AS THE
4		COMPENSATION MECHANISM AND ACTUAL TRAFFIC
5		MEASUREMENTS ARE UNAVAILABLE, SHOULD THE PARTIES
6		AGREE ON A FACTOR TO USE AS A PROXY FOR THE MOBILE-TO-
7		LAND AND LAND-TO-MOBILE TRAFFIC BALANCE?
8	A.	Yes. Currently, some of the CMRS Providers have the capability to measure
9		traffic sent to or received from another carrier, while other CMRS Providers do
10		not. Thus, a typical interconnection agreement between an ICO and a CMRS
11		Provider that cannot measure traffic will contain a "traffic factor" to take the place
12		of real-time measurement on the part of the CMRS Provider. If the "traffic
13		factor" is set at 60/40, for example, then a wireless carrier will treat the amount
14		billed by the ICO as 60% of the total traffic exchanged between the parties, and
15		the CMRS Provider will, in turn, bill the ICO for the remaining 40%, which is
16		approximately 66% (40% divided by 60%) of what the ICO billed the CMRS
17		Provider.
18		
19		Such a traffic factor is common in the industry and is contained in all of
20		Cingular's interconnection agreements involving reciprocal compensation rates.
21		Although the agreed-upon ratio can vary from contract to contract, the ratio
22		contained in several of Cingular's recent interconnection agreements with rural
23		telephone companies is 60/40.

The CMRS Providers believe that bill-and-keep is the appropriate compensation mechanism until the ICOs produce appropriate cost and traffic studies. If the TRA should decide, however, that the setting of a reciprocal compensation rate is more appropriate, then any contracts between the CMRS Providers and ICOs should contain an optional traffic factor to be applied if the CMRS Provider lacks measurement capabilities. I have been unable to find such a traffic factor in the ICOs' proposed two-party agreement. Thus, the best evidence of a factor that is available to the TRA is the one suggested by the CMRS Providers in Appendix A; i.e. 60/40.

Q. YOU TESTIFIED THAT SOME CMRS PROVIDERS HAVE THE

ABILITY TO MEASURE TRAFFIC. SHOULD THE

INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT ALSO CONTAIN A PROVISION

ALLOWING THOSE COMPANIES TO BILL ON A MEASUREMENT

16 BASIS?

A. Yes. If the TRA chooses not to adopt bill-and-keep, then for those companies with the capability, billing on actual usage is preferable to the use of a traffic factor, which by nature is always an approximation. The CMRS Providers' proposed contract contains a provision allowing reciprocal compensation billing to take place on the basis of either real measurements or a traffic factor, depending on the capability of the CMRS Provider. See Appendix A, § I.B. If the TRA feels that bill-and-keep is not appropriate, then the TRA should adopt

1		this provision to allow CMRS Providers to issue reciprocal compensation bills
2		based on each carrier's capability. Of course, if the TRA adopts bill-and-keep, the
3		issue of a traffic factor will not arise.
4		
5	Q.	WHAT IS THE ICOS' POSITION REGARDING THE USE OF TRAFFIC
6		FACTORS?
7	A.	The ICOs' Response claims that "the parties are not required to use default
8		[traffic] factors because the indirect traffic arrangement presumes that traffic will
9		be identified and measured." 19 As I indicated, however, some of the CMRS
10		Providers lack the capability to measure traffic. If the TRA does not adopt bill-
11		and-keep as the appropriate compensation mechanism, then a traffic factor should
12		be included in each contract between the CMRS Providers and ICOs, along with
13		an option for billing based on actual measurement.
14		
15		D. ISSUE 10
16	Q.	IF A CMRS PROVIDER AND AN ICO ARE EXCHANGING ONLY A DE
17		MINIMIS AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC, SHOULD THEY COMPENSATE
18		EACH OTHER ON A BILL-AND-KEEP BASIS?
19	A.	Yes. The FCC has recognized that transaction costs and administrative burdens
20		are appropriate considerations, in addition to the issues of "roughly balanced"
21		traffic and forward-looking cost studies, when analyzing the merits of bill-and-
22		keep proposals. ²⁰ With many ICOs, some of the CMRS providers exchange a

ICOs' Response, p 71.

[&]quot;We expect, however, that when it is economically efficient to do so, parties will

relatively small amount of traffic. Even if the ICOs had produced appropriate traffic and cost studies, if the companies were to bill each other for such small amounts of traffic, the costs of measuring usage, generating a bill, sending the bill and ensuring collection would exceed the revenues collected from the billing. In such a case, bill-and-keep is the only reciprocal compensation principle that makes economic sense. For this reason, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has ruled that CMRS providers and ICOs should exchange traffic on a bill-and-keep basis "until an individual study shows that it is more economically and justifiably appropriate to do otherwise." The TRA should adopt the same rule.

Q. DOES THE CMRS PROVIDERS' PROPOSED CONTRACT CONTAIN A

PROVISION REGARDING DE MINIMIS TRAFFIC?

13 A. Yes. Paragraph I.D of Exhibit A states that when the total traffic exchanged
14 between the Parties is less than 50,000 minutes of use for a one-month period, no
15 billings will be issued by either party. The TRA should adopt this provision.

Q. WHAT IS THE ICOS' POSITION REGARDING DE MINIMIS TRAFFIC?

18 A. The ICOs' Response states: "This issue of the CMRS providers is frivolous."²²

Q. DOES CINGULAR CONSIDER THIS ISSUE "FRIVOLOUS?"

adopt bill and keep arrangements in the negotiation process." See Local Competition First Report and Order, ¶ 1118.

ICO Response, p 73

See Issue 4 of Issues Matrix attached to the Final Order of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission that was filed in this Docket on April 14, 2004.

A. No. There are more than 1300 independent telephone companies in the United States, and Cingular must be able to exchange traffic with all of them. The cost of preparing and mailing bills to all of these independent companies would be enormous. It makes no economic sense to Cingular to generate and mail a bill for an amount less than the cost of producing the bill. Far from being frivolous, this issue is extremely important to Cingular.

A.

Q. IF THE TRA ADOPTS BILL-AND-KEEP AS THE APPROPRIATE COMPENSATON MECHANISM, IS THIS ISSUE MOOT?

Yes. The "de minimis traffic" issue is important only if the TRA establishes a reciprocal compensation rate. To justify that approach, however, each ICO must produce appropriate traffic and cost studies. Since no such studies have been produced, bill-and-keep is the only available alternative, and the issue of de minimis traffic should not arise.

16 E. ISSUE 11

Q. SHOULD THE PARTIES ESTABLISH AN INTER-MTA FACTOR?

A. As discussed above, the Act and implementing FCC regulations require reciprocal compensation principles to be applied to "telecommunications traffic," defined in the case of CMRS Providers to be traffic that, at the beginning of the call, originates and terminates in the same MTA. Although the law is far from clear on this point, access charges arguably may apply to certain traffic exchanged

1	between the CMRS Providers and ICOs that does not, at the beginning of the call,
2	originate and terminate in the same MTA; i.e., interMTA traffic.
3	
4	There is, however, no evidence in this proceeding to indicate that the CMRS
5	Providers and ICOs exchange significant amounts of traffic across MTA
6	boundaries, nor is there any evidence to indicate that any interMTA traffic that is
7	exchanged by ICOs and CMRS Providers is not roughly balanced. Thus, the
8	CMRS Providers' proposed contract (at Appendix A, § II) would have the parties
9	exchange interMTA traffic on a bill-and-keep basis. This would be the preferred
10	method, especially if the TRA adopts bill-and-keep as the reciprocal
11	compensation principle to apply to intraMTA traffic.
12	
13	The CMRS Providers' proposed contract would allow the parties to agree to
14	replace bill-and-keep as the compensation method for interMTA traffic if a party
15	"believes that the volume of such traffic has increased to a significant level and is
16	no longer in balance." In such a case, billing for interMTA traffic would be based
17	on actual measurements, unless a party lacks the capability to make such
18	measurements. In that case, an agreed interMTA traffic factor would apply.
19	
20	The CMRS Providers' proposed contract provision should be adopted by the
21	TRA, especially because the ICOs have failed to produce any evidence showing
22	that exchanged interMTA traffic is not de minimis and roughly balanced.
23	

Q. WHAT IS THE ICOS' POSITION ON THIS ISSUE?

2 A. The ICOs' Response states: "The ICOs respectfully suggest that there is no basis to arbitrate this issue."²³ Thus, the ICOs' proposed two-party agreement with 3 4 CMRS Providers, at § 4.5.2, would subject interMTA traffic "to treatment under Rural LEC's intrastate and interstate access tariffs." In support of this provision, 5 6 the ICOs suggest that "the relative percentage of interstate and interMTA traffic carried by wireless providers is growing,"24 but offer nothing beyond anecdotal 7 8 speculation as proof. Absent credible evidence that interMTA traffic is not 9 roughly balanced and that it rises above a de minimis level, the CMRS Providers' 10 proposed contractual provision should be adopted.

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F. ICO ISSUE 6

13 Q. HOW SHOULD ACCESS CHARGES APPLY TO INTERMTA TRAFFIC?

As discussed above, interMTA traffic exchanged by the CMRS Providers and the ICOs is generally de minimis and roughly balanced and therefore should presumptively be exchanged on a bill and keep basis. The ICOs, however, take the position that access charges should apply to such traffic. The CMRS Providers would point out that, if the ICOs are correct, if access charges should apply to interMTA traffic, then access charges should apply to both CMRS Providers and ICOs.

21

²³ *Id*, p. 76.

^{&#}x27; Id

See ICO Additional Issue 6, ICOs' Response, p. 96

1		Inter-carrier compensation between landline and wireless companies involves
2		difficult details, especially in the case of interMTA traffic. The potential call
3		configurations are numerous and technical. Moreover, because there is no
4		credible evidence in the record that interMTA traffic rises above a de minimis
5		amount and is not roughly balanced, bill-and-keep principles should be applied.
6		
7		G. NET BILLING OPTION
8	Q.	IF THE TRA DOES NOT ADOPT BILL-AND-KEEP AS THE METHOD
9		OF COMPENSATION, SHOULD THE CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE
10		CMRS PROVIDERS AND THE ICOS CONTAIN A NET BILLING
11		OPTION?
12	A.	Yes. Although this issue is not currently listed on the Joint Issues Matrix, it is
13		important to the CMRS Providers.
14		
15	Q.	IF THE TRA DOES NOT ADOPT BILL-AND-KEEP, WHAT BILLING
16		OPTIONS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE PARTIES?
17	A.	As discussed above, some CMRS Providers can measure traffic on a real time
18		basis, others cannot. When traffic is measured, each party bills the other based on
19		such measurements. This option is provided for in Appendix A, § I.B.1 of the
20		CMRS Providers' proposed contract.
21		
22		When a CMRS Provider cannot measure traffic, however, then a traffic factor
23		must be employed. In such a case, the ICO will bill the CMRS Provider for all

1		CMRS traffic terminated by the ICObased on actual measurements of the ICO.
2		The CMRS Provider can then bill the ICO based on application of the traffic
3		factor to the ICO's bill. This is the "Mutual Billing" option described in Appendix
4		A, § I.B.2.b(i) of the CMRS Providers' proposed contract. In such a case,
5		however, the ICO can simply reduce its bill by the amount of the traffic factor,
6		and the CMRS Provider need not issue a bill at all. This is the "Net Billing"
7		option described in Appendix A, § I.B.2.b(ii).
8		
9		The CMRS Providers' proposed contract would allow the wireless carrier that is
10		incapable of measuring traffic to select either the "Mutual Billing" or "Net
11		Billing" option. Since the ICO will produce a bill in either situation, the option
12		should be with the CMRS Provider.
13		
14		If the TRA does not adopt bill-and-keep, then the CMRS Providers requests that
15		the "Net Billing" option be allowed. A decision to adopt bill-and-keep will, of
16		course, moot this issue.
17		
18	Q.	DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?
19	A.	Yes.

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1573552_1 DOC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 3, 2004, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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[] [X] []	Hand Mail Facsimile Overnight	Elaine D. Critides Verizon Wireless 13001 Street, NW Ste. 400 West Washington, DC 20005
[] [X] []	Hand Mail Facsimile Overnight	Paul Walters, Jr. 15 East 1 st Street Edmond, OK 73034
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i		1

J. Gray Sasser

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

IN RE:) CONSOLIDATED
PETITION FOR ARBITRATION OF CELLCO PARTNERHSIP) CONSOLIDATED) DOCKET
D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS) 03-00585
PETITION FOR ARBITRATION OF BELLSOUTH MOBILITY)
LLC; BELLSOUTH PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS, LLC;)
CHATTANOOGA MSA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP;)
COLLECTIVELY D/B/A CINGULAR WIRELESS)
PETITION FOR ARBITRATION OF AT&T WIRELESS PCS, LLC)
D/B/A AT&T WIRELESS	
PETITION FOR ARBITRATION OF T-MOBILE USA, INC.)
PETITION FOR ARBITRATION OF SPRINT SPECTRUM L.P.)
D/B/A SPRINT PCS)

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

BILLY H. PRUITT

ON BEHALF OF SPRINT SPECTRUM L.P. D/B/A SPRINT PCS

Filed June 3, 2004

- 1 Q. Please state your name and address.
- 2 A My name is Billy H Pruitt. My business address is 6360 Sprint Parkway, Mailstop
- 3 KSOPHE0302-3C610, Overland Park, KS, 66251.
- 4 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
- 5 A. I am a Manager-Access Management/Planning in the Sprint Business Solutions Group,
- 6 Carrier/Wholesale Markets, Access Management organization.

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF TESTIMONY

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

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The purpose of my testimony is to provide input to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") regarding the positions of Sprint Spectrum L.P. d/b/a Sprint PCS ("Sprint PCS"), AT&T Wireless ("AWS"), Cingular Wireless, T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless (collectively "the CMRS Providers") in consolidated Docket No. 03-00585 regarding unresolved issues¹ associated with negotiations for an Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement between the CMRS Providers and members of the Tennessee Rural Independent Coalition ("ICO(s)").

To avoid repetition to the extent reasonably possible, the CMRS Providers have each assumed primary responsibility for certain designated issues in their respective testimony. I am providing Sprint PCS specific information and have assumed primary responsibility to provide testimony on behalf of all the CMRS Providers regarding the following areas and related issues:

Area	Issue No
Sprint PCS Contracting Entity; Existing Tennessee Interconnection Agreements; Tennessee Network; Network Enlargement through Management Agreements; Tennessee Numbering Resources; Billing and Traffic Management; "Meetpoint Conversion" with BellSouth;	ICO 4; Background

¹ See e g, "Petition for Arbitration of Sprint Spectrum L P d/b/a Sprint PCS" originally filed November 6, 2003 in Docket 03-00589 and subsequently consolidated in Docket 03-00585 ("Pet Arb")

Negotiations with Tennessee ICOs	Background
Indirect Interconnection	CMRS 1, 2, 5, 6, ICO 2 and 9
Network Changes	CMRS 18
Scope of Traffic Subject to Reciprocal Compensation	CMRS 2(b)

1 2

To the extent not otherwise addressed by specific testimony submitted by me, for the limited purposes of this consolidated arbitration, Sprint PCS generally concurs with the testimony submitted by another CMRS Provider regarding those areas for which that CMRS Provider has assumed primary responsibility and submitted testimony.

A.

As a final introductory matter, it is the CMRS Providers' position that to the extent an ICO desires to be compensated for the exchange of traffic on anything other than a bill and keep basis, that ICO has the burden to propose incremental cost-based transport and termination rates and produce an appropriate forward looking economic cost study supporting such rates pursuant to 47 C.F.R § 51 705 (a). The CMRS Providers' have affirmatively requested production of such information but, as of the filing of this testimony, no such information has been produced and remains one of the subject matters of the CMRS Providers' pending Motion to Compel. Although the general compensation principles are being addressed in my testimony and that of other CMRS Providers', Sprint PCS intends and hereby affirmatively reserves its right to submit testimony of expert cost witness Talmage O. Cox, III regarding the appropriateness of any rate and ICO cost study that may be produced pursuant to resolution of the CMRS Providers' Motion to Compel.

Q. Would you please outline your educational background and business experience?

I joined Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1968 and served in multiple technical positions until 1970. In 1970, I was drafted into the US Army and was trained as a Radio

Relay and Carrier Attendant but served as a forest fire fighter. Upon my return to Southwestern Bell I again served in multiple technical positions until 1983. I obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree from St. Louis University in 1981. In 1983, I was appointed as a Manager in the Access Services group where I performed detailed cost studies and developed rates for multiple technologies required to provide switched access services. In 1986, I obtained a Masters of Business Administration degree from Webster University. I was also promoted to the position of Area Manager Rates and Cost Studies in 1986 and managed a work group responsible for switched access cost study and rate development and the associated filings with state and federal regulatory bodies. In 1990, I was appointed Area Manager Regional Sales where I developed and presented competitive proposals for complex network services and served as the Division's regulatory haison. I retired from Southwestern Bell in December 1998 to pursue other interests.

In September 1999, I accepted a position as Senior Engineer in the Carrier & Interconnection Management (C&IM) Group at Sprint PCS responsible for negotiation of interconnection agreements and facility agreements between Sprint PCS and other telecommunications carriers, and for providing expert witness testimony for Sprint PCS. In March 2003 I was assigned to Sprint's Access Management organization and now, due to a subsequent reorganization, I am currently assigned to the Sprint Business Solutions organization where I support Sprint long distance, wireless, and local service initiatives.

Q. What are your responsibilities in your current position?

A.

In my current position I provide general enterprise support to various Sprint organizations involved in the development and delivery of products and services to Sprint's wholesale customers and negotiate contracts with LECs and alternate access vendors for services and facilities required in the Sprint network. I also provide general negotiation and contract support to the various negotiation teams at Sprint that negotiate interconnection

agreements with incumbent local exchange carriers and other telecommunications carriers, and I provide expert witness testimony when required. In the performance of my responsibilities described above I am required to understand and implement on a dayto-day basis the obligations imposed on Sprint PCS by the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act" or "the 1996 Act") and the resulting rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and the state public utility authorities.

Q. Have you testified previously before any state regulatory commissions?

9 Α Yes, I have testified on issues similar to the issues in this case before the Iowa Public 10 Utility Board, the Missouri Public Service Commission, the Nebraska Public Service 11 Commission, and the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

A. SPRINT PCS' SERVICE

1. Identification of Sprint Contracting Entity (ICO Issue 4) 2

- What Sprint entity will be the contracting party for the purpose of entering an 15 Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement with an ICO in 16 Tennessee? 17 Sprint Spectrum L.P. d/b/a Sprint PCS is authorized to provide Commercial Mobile A: Radio Service³ in MTAs 11, 28, 29, 43 and 44 pursuant to FCC licenses issued to 18 WirelessCo., LP. and SprintCom, Inc. Collectively, portions of these five (5) MTAs 19
- 20 encompass all of the State of Tennessee. Sprint Spectrum L.P. d/b/a Sprint PCS
- (hereinafter "Sprint PCS") is the Sprint entity that will respectively contract with those 21
- ICOs that terminate Sprint PCS traffic and do not already have an Interconnection 22
- 23 Agreement with Sprint PCS.

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Q.

² References are to the Joint Issues Matrix filed March 3, 2004, Docket No 03-00585 (e g "CMRS Issue #", "ICO Issue #")

³ Commercial Mobile Radio Service is generally understood and interchangeably referred to as "CMRS", "CMRS service" or "wireless service", albeit of a particular type

1	<u>2.</u>	Sprint PCS Current Tennessee Interconnection Agreements
2	Q:	Please identify each Local Exchange Carrier ("LEC") that Sprint PCS has an
3		interconnection agreement with regarding the exchange of traffic in Tennessee.
4	A:	Sprint PCS currently has a filed and TRA approved interconnection agreement governing
5		the exchange of traffic in Tennessee with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.;
6		CenturyTel, with respect to its three companies CenturyTel of Adamsville, Inc.,
7		CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc. and CenturyTel of Ooltewah-Collegdale, Inc; Citizens
8		Telecommunications Company of Tennessee, LLC ("Citizens"); and, United Telephone -
9		Southeast, Inc. (i.e. "Sprint Local Telecommunications Division" or "Sprint LTD").
10		Sprint PCS exchanges traffic with other carriers on a default bill and keep basis.
11	Q:	Does Sprint PCS have Bill and Keep Arrangements with Other Carriers in
12		Tennessee?
13	A:	Yes. Sprint PCS exchanges traffic with BellSouth on a bill and keep basis.
14	<u>3.</u>	The Sprint PCS Network in Tennessee
15	Q.	Please provide an overview of the Sprint PCS network in Tennessee.
16	A.	Sprint PCS provides wireless service in Tennessee via the use of its licensed spectrum,
17		mobile switching centers ("MSCs"), cell towers, and owned or leased transport facilities.
18		Cell towers located in a given MTA within Tennessee are connected via transport
19		facilities to a Sprint PCS MSC. Depending upon the location of the cell towers and
20		serving MSC, there is typically a direct interconnection established between the MSC and
21		a BellSouth, Citizens' or Sprint LTD LATA tandem in the LATA where the cell towers
22		are located. Sprint PCS also has direct connections between a given MSC and certain
23		BellSouth end offices where the volume of exchanged traffic warrants it.
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4. CMRS Providers' Enlargement of Networks through Management Agreements

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A.

Q. What is the purpose of the CMRS Providers' proposed interconnection agreement

"Miscellaneous" Section XV, subsection A.4 regarding the expansion of a CMRS

Provider's network through the use of management contracts?

A CMRS Provider may extend its network through various means Common examples of network expansion include a CMRS Provider building out its existing network on its own without any involvement of another carrier or third-party; purchasing another carrier's existing network, using a third party to simply construct, i.e. "build out", but not retain any management functions for the network extension; or, some combination of network build out and network management by a third party. Under any of these scenarios, the wireless link between the cell tower and mobile handset, and the interconnection that must occur between the network and the Public Switched Telephone Network ("PSTN") to result in the offering of wireless service, occurs pursuant to the use of the CMRS Provider's licensed spectrum. As licensee, the CMRS Provider remains responsible for the interconnection of an extended network to the PSTN, as well as the usage associated with that extended network. Section XV, subsection A. expressly recognizes these varying business relationships and acknowledges that traffic originating or terminating on the network of a CMRS Provider, regardless of the underlying business relationships, remains subject to the interconnection contract on the same terms, conditions and rates as traffic that originates and terminates on the CMRS Provider's existing, core network.

⁴ Pet Arb, Exhibit 2, Section XV Miscellaneous, subsection A. provides:

Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit CMRS Carrier from enlarging its CMRS network through management contracts with third parties for the construction and operation of a CMRS system under the CMRS Carrier's brand name and license. Traffic originating on such extended networks shall be treated as CMRS Carrier Traffic subject to the terms, conditions, and rates of this Agreement Traffic traversing such extended networks shall be deemed to be and treated under this Agreement as CMRS Carrier Traffic when it originates on such extended network and terminates on ILEC's network, and as ILEC's Traffic when it originates upon ILEC's network and terminates upon such extended network. Traffic traversing on such extended networks shall be subject to the terms, conditions, and rates of this Agreement

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2	<u>5.</u>	Sprint PCS Numbering Resources in Tennessee (CMRS Issue 12)
3	Q.	Please provide an overview of the NPA-NXXs assigned to Sprint PCS in Tennessee.
4		Attached hereto as "Exhibit A" is a chart containing the NPA-NXX codes currently
5		identified in the Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") as assigned to Sprint PCS in
6		Tennessee; the LEC rate center to which each NPA-NXX is associated in the LERG; and,
7		each ICO rate center that is believed to have local service offerings under which an ICO
8		end-user should be able to call certain Sprint PCS NPA-NXXs on a local basis.
9	<u>6.</u>	Sprint PCS "Meetpoint Conversion" with BellSouth
10	Q.	What compensation historically flowed between Sprint PCS, BellSouth, and an ICO
11		for a mobile originated call that BellSouth transited to an ICO for termination to
12		the ICO's customer?
13	A.	Under the original interconnection agreements between Sprint PCS and BellSouth, Sprint
14		PCS paid BellSouth \$0.002 per minute of use for transit charges and an amount intended
15		to compensate BellSouth for access charges it paid a subtending ICO to terminate Sprint
16		PCS traffic
17	Q.	How does Sprint PCS compensate BellSouth today for a mobile originated call that
18		BellSouth transits to an ICO for termination to an ICO customer?
19	A.	Under the current and effective interconnection agreement approved by the TRA on
20		September 20, 2002 in Docket No. 02-00836, Sprint PCS pays BellSouth \$0.002 per
21		minute of use for transit charges. The agreement does not contain terms that require
22		Sprint PCS to compensate BellSouth for charges BellSouth pays to subtending ICOs.
23	Q.	What caused Sprint PCS to seek a change in the manner that BellSouth charged
24		Sprint PCS for a mobile originated call that BellSouth transited to an ICO for
25		termination?

1	A.	Sprint PCS maintains that the majority of the mobile originated traffic transited by
2		BellSouth was intraMTA traffic that is not subject to access charges under the Act.
3		Sprint PCS and BellSouth modified their interconnection agreement to reflect the correct
4		application of the Act.
5	Q.	Is Sprint PCS able to measure traffic that is delivered to it by other
6		telecommunications carriers with which it has interconnection agreements?
7	A.	Yes. Sprint PCS, pursuant to the applicable interconnection agreement it may have with
8		another telecommunications carrier, is able to measure the traffic terminating to its
9		network on either a direct or indirect basis and provide an appropriate bill
10		B. NEGOTIATIONS WITH TENNESSEE ICOS
11	<u>1.</u>	Sprint PCS Individual Negotiations Experience with Tennessee ICOs
12	Q.	Did Sprint PCS have interconnection negotiations with any ICOs prior to the
13		collective negotiations that preceded the filing of the Sprint PCS arbitration
14		petition?
15	A.	It is my understanding that Sprint PCS did have preliminary communications regarding
16		the subject of interconnection with representatives of DeKalb Telephone Cooperative
17		("DeKalb"); TEC Services on behalf of Crockett Telephone Company, Inc., Peoples
18		Telephone Company, Inc., and West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc. ("the TEC
19		Services ICOs"), and Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Ben Lomand").
20	Q.	What was the nature and result of these communications?
21	A.	It is my understanding that in October, 2001, Sprint PCS started receiving "Carrier
22		Access Bill[s]" from DeKalb. Upon receipt of the initial bill, Sprint PCS disputed that
23		bill (and has disputed all subsequent bills) and sent a formal response proposing either a
24		simple bill and keep arrangement, or negotiation of a more formal interconnection
25		agreement. No response was received and a follow up letter was sent in May, 2002 in
26		which Sprint PCS stated that it assumed that since no response had been received from

DeKalb that the exchange of traffic between the parties would be bill and keep. Within two weeks, written correspondence was received from DeKalb's counsel (i.e. the ICOs current counsel, Mr. Kraskin). Correspondence continued to be exchanged through March 2003, but no substantive negotiations occurred. In early April, 2003 the ICOs filed their *Petition For Emergency Relief And Request For Standstill Order* in Docket No. 00-00523. Ultimately, the positions of Sprint PCS and DeKalb were reflected within the issues raised in the collective CMRS – ICO negotiations that resulted from the Hearing Officer's May 5, 2003 *Order Granting Conditional Stay, Continuing Abeyance, And Granting Interventions* entered in Docket No. 00-00523 ("May 5, 2003 Order").

Regarding the TEC Services ICOs, it is my understanding that Sprint PCS started receiving "Carrier Access Bill[s]" from TEC Services in February, 2003 for each of the ICOs represented by TEC Services. Sprint PCS disputed those bills (and has disputed all subsequent bills), and sent a formal response in March, 2003 to request that negotiations begin for a reciprocal compensation agreement pursuant to Sections 332, 251 and 252 of the Act Sprint PCS was advised that the TEC Services ICOs were represented by the ICOs current counsel, Mr. Kraskin. Similar to DeKalb, before substantive negotiations commenced, the May 5, 2003 Order was entered in Docket No. 00-00523.

Regarding Ben Lomand, it is my understanding that in early spring 2002 Sprint PCS received a customer complaint that Ben Lomand was requiring its Hillsboro endusers to call a Sprint PCS NPA-NXX associated with the BellSouth Tullahoma exchange on a 1+ toll basis even though Ben Lomand permitted its end-users to call BellSouth's Tullahoma NPA-NXXs as a local, non-toll call. Sprint PCS contacted Ben Lomand in writing to explain the limited amount of traffic at issue; point out how Ben Lomand could appropriately route the traffic in issue on an indirect basis without imposition of toll charges; and, submit a proposed bill and keep indirect agreement. A response was received from Mr. Kraskin's firm on behalf of Ben Lomand that disagreed with Sprint

PCS's view of indirect interconnection, and suggested either a "reverse toll billing arrangement" or a direct interconnection, with Sprint PCS to be responsible for all direct facilities between Sprint PCS and Ben Lomand. At the time, Sprint PCS did not consider it economically viable to either install a direct connection on the terms suggested by Ben Lomand or to litigate its right to obtain the indirect interconnection and dialing parity to which it is entitled under the Act. A business decision was made and both the Sprint PCS complaining customer and the customer's daughter canceled their Sprint PCS service. Thereafter, no further individual communications occurred between Sprint PCS and Ben Lomand.

2. CMRS Provider's Collective Negotiations Preceding Arbitration Filings

- Q. Would you please describe the history of the collective negotiations with the ICOs that preceded the arbitration filing?
- A. Yes. Pursuant to the May 5, 2003 Order in Docket No. 00-00523, the CMRS Providers issued a *bona fide* request to begin interconnection and reciprocal compensation negotiations to the ICOs under Section 252(b) of the Act on May 29, 2003. At the ICOs' request, on June 6, 2003 the CMRS Providers confirmed that their request was for negotiations pursuant to Section 251 of the Act. By letter dated June 10, 2003 the ICOs agreed to the collective negotiation process.

The CMRS Providers and ICOs then met to negotiate terms of an interconnection and reciprocal compensation agreement on several occasions. The first meeting was held in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 2-3, 2003 at BellSouth's facilities. A second meeting was held in Nashville on July 16, 2003. In addition to these two face-to-face negotiations sessions, the CMRS and ICOs held negotiations via teleconference on August 4, September 18, 30 and October 10, 2003.

Q. Have the CMRS Providers and the ICOs exchanged draft proposed interconnection arrangements?

A. Yes. As proposed at the June 2, 2003 meeting in Nashville, the CMRS Providers sent a negotiation document based upon the interconnection and reciprocal compensation arrangement in effect between Verizon Wireless and TDS Telecom to the ICOs on June 20, 2003.⁵ The ICOs provided a redlined counter-proposal on July 10, 2003, which provided terms and conditions for the exchange of indirect traffic between the ICOs, CMRS Providers and BellSouth. The CMRS Providers subsequently proposed a redline of the ICOs July 10, 2003 draft on September 5, 2003.

Q. Have the CMRS Providers and the ICOs ever agreed to a "baseline" negotiation document?

A. No. At no time did the Parties agree to a baseline negotiation document, but did attempt to address the substantive disputes pursuant to an issues list. Although several attempts were made by both Parties to consolidate competing language into one document, neither side agreed to a common document and, therefore, the issue of which document should govern is one of the disputed items contained in the CMRS Provider arbitration petitions.

Q. Have the CMRS Providers attempted to resolve issues of interim compensation pending negotiation and approval of an interconnection arrangement by the TRA?

Yes CMRS Providers have attempted to resolve issues of interim compensation for traffic terminated by the Parties prior to there being an effective interconnection agreement. On July 30, 2003, the CMRS Providers made an offer for an interim reciprocal symmetrical compensation rate for the transport and termination of traffic prior to the adoption of an interconnection agreement between the Parties.⁶ On August 4,

A.

⁵ The CMRS Providers offered this agreement as a starting negotiation document. The document was based upon the current agreement governing the reciprocal compensation and exchange of indirect traffic between TDS and Verizon Wireless, as approved by the TRA in Docket No. 02-00973 (November 13, 2002) Both Verizon Wireless and TDS are parties to the collective negotiations

⁶ See 47 C F R § 51 715(a), (d).

2003, the ICOs rejected this offer. A second offer for interim compensation was made by the CMRS Providers to the ICOs at the October 10, 2003 negotiation session. To date, that offer has not been accepted by the ICOs.

Q. Would you please provide an overview of the issues in dispute between the CMRS Providers and the ICOs?

A.

A.

Yes. There is no threshold dispute that the Parties are each subject to the Act. There is, however, considerable disagreement over what the Parties are respectively entitled to receive from, or are required to provide to, one another pursuant to the Act

The lack of reciprocity and the imposition of access-like charges on intraMTA traffic is the source of most of the disputes between the Parties. The Parties have also been unable to agree on the level of reciprocal compensation rates to be charged for transport and termination; the applicability of such rates to traffic exchanged on an indirect basis; and, who bears responsibility for facility transport or transit costs beyond the ICO service territory when such costs are associated with ICO originated traffic. In addition, the ICOs claim that they are not required to treat CMRS Provider NPA/NXXs rated in the ICOs' rate centers (or EAS areas) in the same manner as the ICOs' NPA/NXXs or an EAS Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC") NPA/NXXs are treated from either a dialing parity or end user rate perspective.

Q. Did the parties' negotiations include negotiations regarding both the indirect and direct exchange of traffic?

Yes. Throughout negotiations the parties considered and alternatively attempted to negotiate an "indirect only" interconnection agreement as well as an "indirect and direct" interconnection agreement. Since no agreement was reached under either approach, yet similar issues need to be resolved regardless of the type of interconnection that may

occur⁷, the CMRS Providers seek an interconnection agreement consistent with federal law that enables a CMRS Provider to interconnect either indirectly or directly as it believes is warranted by the circumstances that exist between it and a given ICO.

Although the ICOs are attempting to limit any resolution of issues in this arbitration to "indirect" interconnection (see CMRS Issues 14, 15), the ICOs' submitted documents also make it clear that the parties attempted to negotiate as to traffic exchanged via both direct and indirect (i.e. referred to as "intermediary" by the ICOs) interconnection. Resolution of all interconnection issues, both direct and indirect, is not only mandated under federal law in light of the CMRS Providers' request to establish such options, but this approach will also avoid any need for an otherwise highly undesirable but probable future duplicative arbitration between CMRS Providers and ICOs over any "direct" interconnection issues that are not otherwise addressed now.

II. ARBITRATION ISSUES

A. INTERMEDIARY CARRIER PARTICIPATION

- Q. Is BellSouth required to be a Party to a CMRS/ICO arbitrated interconnection agreement still an issue (CMRS Issue 3, 4,; ICO Issues 1, 3, 9)?
- 17 A. No. The TRA has already decided that, as a transiting carrier, BellSouth is not obligated to pay the ICOs for termination of CMRS originated traffic and, therefore, is not a

⁷ For example, the TRA needs to resolve issues surrounding an ICO's responsibility to pay for applicable, reasonable costs to deliver its intraMTA originated traffic outside its exchange boundaries in either a direct or an indirect scenario. In a direct scenario these costs are reflected within the concept that an ICO is required to pay for its proportionate share of using dedicated interconnection facilities that link the parties' respective networks, and, in an indirect scenario these costs are reflected in transit charges that an intermediate tandem provider would charge the ICO to transit ICO originated traffic from the ICO network to the terminating CMRS Provider network

⁸ See Response of The Rural Coalition of Small LECs and Cooperatives filed December 1, 2003 in Docket 03-00585 ("ICOs' Response"), Exhibit 2, Section 1 "1 x Direct Traffic" and "1 x Intermediary Traffic" definitions, Section 4 3 Compensation – Direct Traffic, and Section 4 5 Compensation – Intermediary Traffic.

1		necessary and indispensable party to the arbitrated CMRS/ICO interconnection
2		agreement.9
3	Q.	Must the issues that may exist between BellSouth and the ICOs be resolved before
4		the ICOs and CMRS Providers establish an interconnection agreement between
5		them (ICO Issue 9)?
6	A	No. The resolution of any unresolved issues between BellSouth and the ICOs should not
7		be a prerequisite to the establishment of an interconnection agreement between the
8		CMRS Providers and the ICOs. Because there are a myriad of issues between carriers as
9		they interconnect to each other and the PSTN in general, allowing the ICOs to delay a
10		request for negotiation and interconnection subject to resolution of issues with non-party
11		carriers would prove untenable. The Act does not permit the delay of a requested
12		interconnection so that one Party may resolve issues associated with a non-Party carrier.
13		If the law were otherwise, negotiations could be delayed indefinitely. The Act thus
14		presumes that the Parties will work in good faith to negotiate an agreement for the
15		exchange of traffic between them pursuant to the statutory timelines.
16 17 18		B. SCOPE OF THE CMRS – ICO INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT (CMRS Issues 13, 14, 15; ICO Issues 5, 8)
19	Q.	Should the scope of the Interconnection Agreement be limited to 1) traffic for which
20		billing records (i.e., 11-01-01 or other industry standard call detail records) are
21		delivered (Section I Scope, Appendix A Section I.B.1.a-c. and Appendix A Section
22		I.B.2.b(ii)); 2) traffic transited by BellSouth (Section I, Scope); or 3) indirect traffic
23		(Section 1, Scope, Section of Agreement, Section IV and Appendix A)?
24	Α	The scope of an interconnection agreement should apply to all traffic exchanged by the
25		Parties and terminated on each Party's respective networks.

⁹ See April 12, 2004 Order Denying Motion in this Docket No. 03-00585, which denied the "Preliminary Motion of the Rural Coalition of Small LECs and Cooperatives to Dismiss or, in the Alternative, Add an Indispensable Party".

1		C. INDIRECT INTERCONNECTION (CMRS Issues 1, 2, 5, 6; ICO Issue 2)
2 3	<u>1.</u>	Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(a) and (b)(5), the ICOS have a Duty to Indirectly
4		Interconnect and Establish Reciprocal Compensation Arrangements Without Regard to Whether Traffic is Delivered on a Direct or Indirect Basis (CMRS Issue
5 6		Regard to whether Traine is Denvered on a Direct or indirect basis (CMRS issue 1, 2)
7 8	Q.	Are the CMRS Providers and ILECs "telecommunications carriers" within the
9		meaning of Section 251(a) of the Act?
10	Α	Yes. 47 U.S.C. § 153 ("Definitions") defines a telecommunications carrier as "any
11		provider of telecommunications services, except that such term does not include
12		aggregators of telecommunications services". By this definition, CMRS Providers
13		CLECs and ILECs are all telecommunications carriers.
14	Q.	Are the ICOs "telecommunications carriers" within the meaning of Section 251(a)
15		of the Act?
16	A.	Yes As stated above, 47 U.S.C. § 153 defines a telecommunications carrier as "any
17		provider of telecommunications services, except that such term does not include
18		aggregators of telecommunications services". By this definition, the ICOs are
19		telecommunications carriers within the meaning of Section 251(a) of the 1996 Act.
20	Q.	Are the ICOs "ILECs" within the meaning of Section 251(c) of the Act?
21	A.	It is my belief and understanding that the ICOs are incumbent local exchange carriers as
22		defined by Section 251(h) of the 1996 Act.
23	Q	What statutory provision and/or rule requires the ICOs to interconnect with CMRS
24		Providers regarding the exchange of traffic between their respective networks?
25	A.	Sections 251 and 252 of the Act created the framework for both the exchange of traffic
26		between the ICOs and CMRS Providers, and the resulting compensation due each party
27		for terminating traffic originated on the other's network. The Act spells out the duties of
28		telecommunications carriers with respect to the exchange of traffic. The very first
29		general duty of an ICO as a telecommunications carrier is "to interconnect directly or

1		indirectly with the facilities and equipment of other felecommunications carriers". 47
2		U.S.C. §251(a)(1); 47 C F.R. § 51.100(a)(1).
3	Q.	Does the Act include any compensation rules regarding the exchange of traffic
4		between an ICO and a CMRS Provider?
5	A.	Yes. 47 U.S.C. § 251(b)(5) imposes the duty upon an ICO "to establish reciprocal
6		compensation arrangements for the transport and termination of telecommunications"
7		The FCC has codified the ICOs' interconnection obligations and the applicable reciprocal
8		compensation rules at 47 C.F.R Part 51- Interconnection and at 47 C F.R. §20.11. At 47
9		C F.R § 51.701(b)(2) the FCC has defined the scope of traffic exchanged between an
10		ICO and CMRS Provider that is subject to the FCC's reciprocal compensation rules to be:
11 12 13		"(2)Telecommunications traffic between a LEC and a CMRS Provider that at the beginning of the call, originates and terminates within the same Major Trading Area, as defined in §24.202(a) of this chapter."
14 15		Based on the foregoing rule, all "intraMTA traffic" exchanged between the ICOs and
16		CMRS Providers is subject to reciprocal compensation rather than any other charges.
17	Q.	Are CMRS Providers responsible for paying compensation to an ICO that
18		terminates a call originated by that CMRS Provider's customers?
19	A.	Yes. CMRS Providers are responsible for paying the terminating LEC the appropriate
20		terminating reciprocal compensation charges for intraMTA traffic. Sprint PCS is willing
21		to compensate the ICOs an appropriate reciprocal compensation rate for this intraMTA
22		traffic Likewise, it is the ICO's responsibility to compensate the CMRS Provider for
23		intraMTA traffic that originated on the ICO's network and is terminated by the CMRS
24		Provider.
25	Q.	Is an ICO obligated to establish reciprocal compensation arrangements with a
26		CMRS Provider for traffic exchanged through a transiting carrier?
27	A.	Yes. All LECs have the duty to "establish reciprocal compensation arrangements for the
28		transport and termination of telecommunications". 47 USC § 251(b)(5); 47 CFR

§51.703(a). There is no exception for traffic exchanged via a transit provider. In addition to any Section 251 obligations, an ICO also has a separate and distinct duty to provide the type of interconnection reasonably requested by a wireless provider pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §20.11(a), as well as a duty to establish mutual compensation arrangements pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §20.11(b).¹⁰ These citations, when combined with the citations defining the duty of all telecommunications carriers to interconnect on a direct or indirect basis, clearly establish a requirement for the ICOs to negotiate interconnection agreements with an originating carrier, even though traffic may be delivered to the ICO by an intermediate transiting carrier.

2. Indirect Interconnection and How it Occurs in Tennessee

Q. The ICOs have proposed a definition of interconnection that states that interconnection is "the linking of the CMRS Carrier and Rural LEC networks at the Interconnection Point for the mutual exchange of Direct Traffic" Do the CMRS Providers agree with this definition?

15 A. No. The CMRS Providers believe that interconnection is not limited to "Direct Traffic"

16 and have proposed the following express definition of "Interconnection" that is

17 contained in the current FCC rules, 47 C F.R. 51 5:

"Interconnection is the linking of two networks for the mutual exchange of traffic. This term does not include the transport and termination of traffic."

¹⁰ 47 C F R §20.11 – Interconnection to facilities of local exchange carriers

⁽a) A local exchange carrier must provide the type of interconnection reasonably requested by a mobile service licensee or carrier, within a reasonable time after the request.

⁽b)Local exchange carriers and commercial mobile radio service providers shall comply with principles of mutual compensation

⁽¹⁾A local exchange carrier shall pay reasonable compensation to a commercial radio service provider in connection with terminating traffic that originates on facilities of the local exchange carrier

⁽²⁾ A commercial mobile radio service provider shall pay reasonable compensation to a local exchange carrier in connection with terminating traffic that originates on the facilities of the commercial mobile radio service provider

¹¹ ICO Response, Exhibit 2, Section 1 Definitions, subsection 1 x "Interconnection" definition

1		The FCC definition does not distinguish between "Direct" or "Indirect" traffic
2		and, therefore, the CMRS proposed language utilizing the FCC definition incorporates
3		both direct and indirect interconnection scenarios.
4	Q.	What is "indirect" interconnection?
5	A.	Indirect interconnection describes the scenario that exists when the CMRS Provider's
6		MSC is physically connected by a dedicated transport facility to a third-party LEC's
7		tandem to which the ICO is also typically physically connected by a common transport
8		facility. In an indirect interconnection scenario, there is no dedicated transport facility
9		between the CMRS Provider and the ICO.
10	Q.	Does BellSouth provide Sprint PCS transit service in Tennessee?
11	A.	Yes. BellSouth has been providing Sprint PCS transit service per an interconnection
12		agreement since at least November 1, 1998
13	Q.	Would you describe transit service generally?
14	Α	Transit service is a service, generally provided by a third party LEC that owns a tandem
15		switch, which enables the exchange of traffic between two telecommunications carriers
16		that are connected to the same third party LEC tandem. Transit service is nothing more
17		than the third party LEC providing a tandem switching function and transport to complete
18		the delivery of an originating carrier's call to the terminating carrier's network.
19	Q.	Does the transit service provided by BellSouth under the terms of its
20		interconnection agreements with Sprint PCS provide a means by which Sprint PCS
21		may indirectly interconnect with the ICOs?
22	A.	Yes. The BellSouth arrangement is the classic means for providing indirect
23		interconnection. BellSouth is the historical LATA tandem provider that provides
24		connectivity to various types of telecommunications carriers (i.e., CMRS Providers

CLECs, ICOs, LECs, etc.). Each of these carriers connects to the BellSouth tandem

1		because they desire to exchange traffic that originates on their own network with other
2		telecommunications carriers that are connected to the same BellSouth tandem.
3 4	<u>3.</u>	Third Party Traffic can be Delivered by BellSouth Even if ICOs do not Subtend the BellSouth Tandem
5 6	Q.	Should BellSouth transit CMRS Provider traffic to an ICO that does not subtend a
7		BellSouth tandem (ICO Issue 2)?
8	A.	Yes. The Act requires all carriers to connect directly or indirectly with each other. 47
9		U.S C. § 251(a)(1). If it is technically feasible for BellSouth to deliver traffic to an ICO
10		that does not subtend a BellSouth tandem (e.g., BellSouth maintains a connection to the
11		ICO end office for the exchange of traffic), then such indirect interconnection is
12		appropriate and required under the Act.
13	Q.	When an intraMTA call initiated by the subscriber of a CMRS Provider that
14		originates on the CMRS Provider's network, transits BellSouth's network, and is
15		handed off to the ICO for termination, is the originating CMRS Provider obligated
16		to compensate the ICO for its portion of the transport and termination of an
17		intraMTA call?
18	A.	Yes. The originating CMRS Provider is obligated to compensate the ICO for its transport
19		and termination costs associated with an intraMTA call. Absent the ICO and the
20		originating CMRS Provider agreeing to a negotiated rate or a bill and keep arrangement,
21		the appropriate pricing methodology would be the forward-looking economic cost
22		standards identified in 47 C F R. §§ 51.505 and 51.511.
23	<u>4.</u>	Originating Carrier Bears the Obligation to Pay any Transit Costs
24	Q.	Is each party to an indirect interconnection arrangement obligated to pay for the
25		transit costs associated with the delivery of intraMTA traffic originated on its
26		network to the terminating party's network? (Section IV.B.1&2)
27	A.	The FCC has established a Calling Party Network Pays ("CPNP") regime for

telecommunications traffic. Under this regime, when an ICO or a CMRS Provider is an originating party, it is responsible for all costs of delivering its originated intraMTA traffic to a terminating party and compensating the terminating party for the use of its network in the termination of this intraMTA traffic. For CMRS Provider originated indirect traffic routed through a third party tandem transit provider, CMRS Providers acknowledge their responsibility to pay the transit provider for the costs associated with delivery of CMRS Provider originated traffic to the terminating party's network. These costs typically include a tandem switching charge and charges associated with the common transmission facilities to the subtending LECs' network. Likewise, the ICOs are obligated to pay any third party transit costs associated with delivering their originated traffic to the terminating party in addition to compensating the terminating party for the use of its network.

Q. Do the ICOs follow the FCC's CPNP regime with respect to ICO originated traffic that may be transited beyond the ICO's network to a CMRS Provider for termination?

No. To the contrary, Section 4.5.4 of the ICOs' proposed interconnection agreement expressly seeks to shift to the CMRS Providers the transit costs that a tandem provider (i.e. "Intermediary Provider") would charge an ICO to transit and deliver ICO originated traffic to a CMRS Provider's point of interconnection at the LATA tandem when that point of interconnection is outside the ICOs "incumbent LEC service area". The ICOs

Α.

¹² ICO Response, Exhibit 2, Section 4 5 4 (emphasis added).

[&]quot;[OPEN -- Subject to Change and the resolution of other terms and conditions with Intermediary Provider] This Agreement includes terms and conditions for the exchange of Intermediary Traffic between CMRS Carrier and Rural LEC under circumstances where CMRS Carrier does not establish an Interconnection Point within the incumbent LEC network of Rural LEC, and accordingly, traffic originated on the network of Rural LEC may be transported and switched by an Intermediary Provider beyond Rural LEC's incumbent LEC network. The Parties agree that Rural LEC's willingness to offer and provide local exchange services to its end users and to route such local exchange service traffic to CMRS Carrier via an Intermediary Provider pursuant to an interconnection arrangement with the Intermediary Provider, to a point on

	argue that they have no obligation to deliver traffic to the point of interconnection even
	though the call may well originate and terminate within the ICO's local calling area
	(although the CMRS provider may receive the call at a tandem located outside the ICO
	serving area, the CMRS provider will deliver the call wherever its end user is located,
	including the ICO's serving territory). There simply is no provision within federal law to
	justify the shifting of costs associated with ICO originated traffic to the terminating
	CMRS Provider.
	Do any FCC rules address the ICOs attempt to shift costs of their originating traffic
	to the CMRS Providers?
	Yes 47 C.F.R. § 51.703(b) states that "[a] LEC may not assess charges on any other
	telecommunications carrier for telecommunications traffic that originates on the LEC's
	network." This rule codifies the general principal that the calling party's network pays
	for the costs associated with the calls it generates.
<u>5.</u>	Co-mingling of Traffic on Common Transport Trunks (CMRS Issue 6)
	Can CMRS traffic be combined with other traffic types over the same trunk group?
	Yes. There is no technological reason for requiring CMRS Provider traffic to be
	delivered over segregated trunk groups. It is also economically inefficient to require

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CMRS Carrier's network that is outside the incumbent LEC service area of Rural LEC, is conditioned on Rural LEC not incurring additional costs for transporting and switching such calls on networks beyond and outside its own incumbent LEC network. Therefore, to transport Intermediary Traffic, via an Intermediary Provider, to and from a point on CMRS Carrier's network outside of Rural LEC's incumbent LEC network, CMRS Carrier agrees to be responsible for compensation to Intermediary Providers for all Intermediary Services provided by the Intermediary Provider for the exchange of Intermediary Traffic. CMRS Carrier agrees to indemnify, defend and hold Rural LEC harmless against any and all charges and any other claims by the Intermediary Providers set forth in Appendix X for Intermediary Services provided by those Intermediary Providers for the exchange of Intermediary Traffic between the Parties"

separate and distinct trunk groups for CMRS traffic.

Today, much of CMRS indirect traffic, especially that destined for rural ILECs, is carried over multi-jurisdictional trunks. Combining CMRS traffic with intraLATA and interLATA toll traffic and other traffic bound for the ICO on the same trunk group is efficient. By aggregating traffic, all traffic can be carried at a lower cost over fewer trunks. The ICOs would eliminate this efficiency by requiring separate trunks for different types of traffic based on the claim that the ICOs cannot measure and bill for multi-jurisdictional traffic carried over combined trunk groups.¹³

As an initial matter, it remains unclear why the ICOs cannot use the industry standard 11-01-01 records that they receive from BellSouth to bill reciprocal compensation to the CMRS Providers, which are the same records they presumably use to bill switched access to IXCs. As referenced earlier in my testimony, several ICOs are apparently relying upon these records to bill Sprint PCS. The TRA should not mandate the implementation of more costly and inefficient network arrangements simply to facilitate the ICOs' billing.

D. DIRECT INTERCONNECTION (Issues 7, 15)

Q. What is "direct" interconnection?

Direct interconnection describes the scenario in which a CMRS Provider's MSC is physically connected to an ICO switch for the exchange of traffic and does not use the switching function and common transport of a third party telecommunications carrier. This direct connection can either be with an ICO's end office switch, the typical configuration, or if the ICO has one, at the tandem switch. A direct connection utilizes a dedicated transport facility between the two parties' respective networks.

Q. Where should the point of interconnection ("POI") be if a direct connection is established between a CMRS Provider's switch and an ICO's switch? (Section IV.A1-A2, Definitions - Direct Interconnection, Interconnection)

¹³ It is unclear whether the ICOs would go further and require separation by individual carriers

1	A.	Under the Act the POI can be located at any technically feasible point on the ILEC's
2		network. ¹⁴ The Parties, however, may also choose to locate the POI at a "meet point"
3		between the two networks. Location of the POI off the ILEC network is a matter of
4		negotiation.

- 5 Q. What percentage of the cost of the direct connection facilities should be borne by the ICO? (Section IV.A.-A2; Definitions - Direct Connection, Interconnection) 6
- 7 A. Pursuant to applicable federal rules, the cost of the dedicated facility between the two 8 networks should be apportioned between the Parties based upon their relative use of such 9 facility. The facilities may be provisioned by a third party or by one of the 10 interconnecting carriers. The charges for such dedicated transport facility links are to be flat-rated, 15 based on the forward looking costing standard as prescribed by 47 C.F.R §§ 12 51.505, 51.511, and are based upon the Parties' proportional use of the dedicated facility.16

If a Party utilizes a one-way facility to deliver its originating traffic to a terminating Party, then the proportional use rules require the originating Party to pay onehundred percent (100%) of that facility cost. If the Parties utilize a two-way direct interconnection facility, then the proportional use rule requires the Parties to split the cost based on their percentage of originated intraMTA traffic. This rule is applicable regardless of the provider of the facility

E. NETWORK CHANGES AND BELLSOUTH'S CONTINUED DELIVERY OF TRAFFIC IF ICOs CHOOSE TO NOT SUBTEND A BELLSOUTH TANDEM (CMRS Issue 18 and ICO Issue 2)

Q. If the ICO changes its network, what notification should it provide and which carrier bears the cost?

26 Α The ICO must comply with the FCC's rules regarding notification of network changes

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¹⁴ 47 U S C § 252(c)(2)(B) ¹⁵ 47 C.F R 51.509(c)

¹⁶ 47 C F R 51 709(b)

I		(4/ C.F.R. §§ 51.325 through 51.335) and should bear the cost of those changes. If a
2		CMRS Provider objects to a proposed change, the dispute should be handled pursuant to
3		a TRA approved dispute resolution process. The ICO should be allowed to proceed with
4		the network change, but should be required to maintain the existing network
5		configuration until the dispute is resolved.
6		F. COMPENSATION (CMRS Issues 2, 8, 9, 10, 11; ICO Issue 6)
7	<u>1.</u>	Reciprocal Compensation Rate Development
8	Q.	What is the appropriate pricing methodology for establishing a reciprocal
9		compensation rate for the exchange of indirect traffic?
10	A.	The TRA should adopt bill-and-keep as the appropriate reciprocal compensation method
11		until the ICOs (1) produce appropriate cost studies, and (2) rebut the presumption of
12		roughly balanced traffic.
13		Under FCC regulations, 47 CFR 51.705, only three options are available to the
14		TRA for establishing ICO reciprocal compensation rates:
15 16 17		(a) An incumbent LEC's rates for transport and termination of telecommunications traffic shall be established, at the election of the state commission, on the basis of.
18 19 20		(1) The forward-looking economic costs of such offerings, using a cost study pursuant to §§51.505 and 51.511;
21 22		(2) Default proxies, as provided in §51.707; or
23 24		(3) A bill-and-keep arrangement, as provided in §51.713.
25		The FCC's default proxy rates have arguably been invalidated and not available for
26		consideration. ¹⁷ Thus, the only option available to the TRA, in the absence of appropriate
27		cost studies, is bill-and-keep.
28		Under 47 CFR § 51.713(b), a state commission may impose bill and keep as the
29		required method of reciprocal compensation if the amount of telecommunications traffic

¹⁷ See Iowa Utilities Bd, et al v F C C, 219 F 3d 744 (8th Cir 2000)

between the Parties is "roughly balanced." The FCC recognized that where there is relatively balanced traffic, "bill and keep arrangements may minimize administrative burdens and the transaction costs." Under subsection (c) of § 51.713, a state commission may presume that traffic is roughly balanced "unless a party rebuts such a presumption." Moreover, the FCC did not require that the traffic be exactly balanced and the TRA has discretion to establish thresholds for determining that the traffic is roughly balanced. Since the ICOs have not provided any data to rebut the presumption of "roughly balanced" traffic between the parties, the TRA should approve bill and keep as the compensation mechanism between the parties.

To the extent that the TRA does not adopt bill and keep, the burden is upon each ICO to propose a company specific rate and produce an appropriate cost study, not upon the CMRS Providers. 47 C.F.R § 51.505 provides:

<u>Cost study requirements</u>. An incumbent LEC must prove to the state commission that the rates for each element it offers do not exceed the forward-looking economic cost per unit of providing the element, using a cost study that complies with the methodology set forth in this section and §51.511 of this part

Although the ICOs proposed negotiated rates prior to the arbitrations being filed, they have yet to propose any rates in these proceedings and, in response to a request from the CMRS Providers, the ICOs represented that they did not have any cost studies to support their proposed transport and termination rates, and have never produced any cost data at

¹⁸ First Report and Order, CC Docket No. 96-98 at 1112 (issued August 8, 1996) ("Local Competition Order")

¹⁹ See Local Competition Order at ¶¶ 1113-14 It should be noted that traffic balance is actually irrelevant for determining the efficiency of bill & keep as an intercarrier compensation system, if the assumption that underlies the CPNP system (originating party is the sole causer), is replaced with a more realistic assumption that both the caller and called party benefit from a call. See, e g, Intercarrier Compensation NPRM, FCC 01-132 at ¶¶ 20-21 (Released April 27, 2001)

²⁰ See e g, Corporation Commission of the State of Oklahoma, In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern Bell Wireless L L C et al for Arbitration Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Cause Nos PUD 200200149, PUD 200200150, PUD 200200151, and PUD 200200153, Interlocutory Order, Order No 466613 (August 9, 2002)

1		all. Thus, under FCC regulations, the establishment of a reciprocal compensation rate is
2		not appropriate at this time. Bill-and-keep is the only appropriate method of inter-carrier
3		compensation until the ICOs produce appropriate cost studies.
4 5	<u>2.</u>	Scope of Traffic Subject to Reciprocal Compensation (CMRS Issue 2(b), ICO Issue 6)
6 7	Q.	Do the reciprocal compensation requirements of 47 USC § 251(b)(5) and the related
8		negotiation and arbitration process in § 252(b) apply to traffic exchanged indirectly
9		by a CMRS Provider and an ICO?
10	A.	Yes. The FCC rules expressly provide for the payment of reciprocal compensation on all
11		ıntraMTA traffic without regard to how it may be delivered.
12		The ICOs argue that section 251(b)(5) reciprocal compensation requirements do
13		not apply to traffic exchanged indirectly and that, instead, something like the FCC's
14		access charge regime applies to such traffic. Thus, the ICOs claim that they should be
15		allowed to charge the intermediate carrier for both calls they originate and terminate and
16		should pay nothing for land originated traffic to the terminating CMRS Provider. The
17		ICOs' position, however, is not supported by the Act or FCC regulations.
18		The obligation for indirect interconnection is set forth in Section 251(a)(1) of the
19		Act and is applicable to all telecommunications carriers, including the ICOs. The FCC
20		has issued a rule implementing this statutory requirement. ²¹ Moreover, 47 CFR § 51.703
21		explicitly states:
22 23 24 25 26		(a) Each LEC shall establish reciprocal compensation arrangements for transport and termination of telecommunications traffic with any requesting telecommunications carrier.

 $^{^{21}}$ See 47 C F R $\,$ §51 100(a)(1) This rule imposes a duty upon the ICOs "to interconnect directly or indirectly".

(b) A LEC may not assess charges on any other telecommunications carrier for telecommunications traffic that originates on the LEC's network Reciprocal compensation arrangements, not access-like charges, apply to all
"telecommunications traffic" In addition, when a carrier originates
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
"telecommunications traffic," it "may not assess charges on any other
telecommunications carrier." The FCC defines "telecommunications traffic," when it
involves a CMRS Provider, to be:
[t]elecommunications traffic between a LEC and a CMRS Provider that, at the beginning of the call, originates and terminates within the same Major Trading Area, as defined in § 24.202(a) of this Chapter.
No distinction is made between direct and indirect traffic.
Can access charges be applied to intraMTA traffic?
No. The FCC made it clear that under the 1996 amendments to the Act, access charges
are not to be imposed upon intraMTA traffic, stating:
1035. With the exception of traffic to or from a CMRS network, state commissions have the authority to determine what geographic areas should be considered "local areas" for the purpose of applying reciprocal compensation obligations under section 251(b)(5), consistent with the state commissions' historical practice of defining local service areas for wireline LECs
1036. On the other hand, in light of this Commission's exclusive authority to define the authorized license areas of wireless carriers, we will define the local service area for calls to or from a CMRS network for the purposes of applying reciprocal compensation obligations under section 251(b)(5). Different types of wireless carriers have different FCC-authorized licensed territories, the largest of which is the "Major Trading Area" (MTA). Because wireless licensed areas are federally authorized, and vary in size, we conclude that the largest FCC-authorized wireless license territory (i.e. MTA) serves as the most appropriate definition for local service area for CMRS traffic for purposes of reciprocal compensation under section 251(b)(5) as it avoids creating artificial distinctions between CMRS Providers Accordingly, traffic to or from a CMRS network that originates and terminates within the same MTA is subject to transport and

²² See 47 C F R § 51 701(b)(2). See also, 47 C F R § 20 11(b)(1) ("A local exchange carrier shall pay reasonable compensation to a commercial mobile radio service provider in connection with terminating traffic that originates on facilities of the local exchange carrier")

1 termination rates under section 251(b)(5), rather than interstate and intrastate 2 access charges. 23 3 O. Has the FCC issued any subsequent orders that support the Sprint PCS position? 4 Yes. In an Order released April 27, 2001, the FCC further expanded on its previous Α. 5 pronouncements, stating. 6 47. We note that the exchange of traffic between LECs and commercial mobile 7 radio service (CMRS) providers is subject to a slightly different analysis. In the 8 Local Competition Order, the Commission noted its jurisdiction to regulate LEC-9 CMRS interconnection under section 332 of the Act but decided, at its option, to 10 apply sections 251 and 252 to the LEC-CMRS interconnection. At that time, the 11 Commission declined to delineate the precise contours of or the relationship 12 between its jurisdiction over LEC-CMRS interconnection under sections 252 and 13 332, but it made clear that it was not rejecting section 332 as an independent 14 basis for jurisdiction. The Commission went on to conclude that section 15 251(b)(5) obligations extend to traffic transmitted between LECs and CMRS 16 Providers, because the latter are telecommunications carriers. The Commission 17 also held that reciprocal compensation, rather than interstate or intrastate 18 access charges, applies to LEC-CMRS traffic that originates and terminates 19 within the same Major Trading Area (MTA). In so holding, the Commission 20 expressly relied on its "authority under section 251(g) to preserve the current 21 interstate access charge regime" to ensure that interstate access charges would be 22 assessed only for traffic "currently subject to interstate access charges," although 23 the Commission's section 332 jurisdiction could serve as an alternative basis to 24 reach this result. Thus the analysis we adopt in this Order, that section 251(g) 25 limits the scope of section 251(b)(5), does not affect either the application of the 26 latter section to LEC-CMRS interconnection or our jurisdiction over LEC-CMRS 27 interconnection under section 332. (Emphasis added.) 28 29 Q. Why do you believe that the underlined section of this subsequent FCC decision is 30 noteworthy? 31 Α. The FCC reaffirms the application of the intraMTA rule established in the Local 32 Competition Order -- that CMRS calls that originate and terminate within a single MTA 33 as determined at the initiation of the call are within the scope of § 251(b)(5) for reciprocal 34 compensation purposes and access charges do not apply. 35 Q. Are calls originated by subscribers of CMRS Providers that originate in a Tennessee 36 MTA and terminate to another telecommunications carrier within that same

Tennessee MTA subject to reciprocal compensation?

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²³ Local Competition Order, at paragraphs 1035 – 1036

F	1 .	Yes. Paragraph 1045 of the Local Competition Order established the criteria for
		determining jurisdiction for calls between LECs and CMRS Providers. This paragraph
		states that "[f]or administrative convenience, the location of the initial cell site when a
		call begins shall be used as the determinant of the geographic location of the mobile
		customer." And, as stated above, 47 C.F.R §51.701(b)(2) states that telecommunications
		traffic between a LEC and a CMRS Provider that originates and terminates within the
		same MTA is subject to reciprocal compensation. Therefore, calls originated by CMRS
		customers to terminating telecommunications carriers' switches, including ICO switches,
		that originate and terminate in the same MTA (i.e., intraMTA calls) are calls subject to
		reciprocal compensation.

Q.

- Do the reciprocal compensation requirements of 47 USC § 251(b)(5) apply to landline originated intraMTA traffic that is delivered to a CMRS Provider via an Interexchange Carrier (IXC)?
- Yes. The FCC rules expressly provide for the payment of reciprocal compensation on all intraMTA traffic without regard to how it may be delivered. As previously discussed above, reciprocal compensation obligations apply to all intraMTA traffic regardless of whether the traffic is completed directly or indirectly.²⁴ Moreover, the reciprocal compensation obligation is not affected by the type of intermediary carrier, be it a transiting carrier or an IXC. In this regard, the FCC determined in the *Local Competition Order* that all traffic to or from a CMRS network that originates and terminates within the same MTA is subject to transport and termination rates under section 251(b)(5) rather than interstate and intrastate access charges.²⁵ Thus, for a call originated by an ICO

²⁴ See, also, Corporation Commission of Oklahoma, In the Matter of Application of Southwestern Bell Wireless L L C et al for Arbitration Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Cause Nos PUD 200200149, 200200150, 200200151, 200200153, Order No 466613, p 4 – Unresolved Issue No. 2 (August 9, 2002) ("[E]ach carrier must pay each other's reciprocal compensation for all intra-MTA traffic whether the carriers are directly or indirectly connected, regardless of an intermediary carrier.")

²⁵ Local Competition Order, ¶ 1043

- customer that is carried by an IXC and terminates to a CMRS Provider within the same

 MTA under the existing FCC's rules, the ICO is obligated to pay reciprocal

 compensation charges to the CMRS Provider.
- Q. Should the Parties establish a factor to delineate what percentage of traffic is interMTA and thereby subject to access rates? If so, what should the factor be?

 (Appendix A.II)
 - A. With current technology, neither the CMRS Providers nor the ICOs are able to determine whether a call, at its inception, is interMTA or intraMTA. In theory, call details exist at the switch level to make such identification, but no software currently can produce usable records from the call detail. For that reason, interconnection agreements between CMRS Providers and ICOs have traditionally included an "interMTA factor" delineating the percentage of total traffic exchanged between the Parties that, at the beginning of the call, originates in one MTA but terminates in another. Absent any traffic data, however, Sprint PCS submits that the interMTA traffic is negligible, should be deemed in balance and, therefore, also exchanged on a bill and keep basis.

G. DIALING PARITY (CMRS Issue 12)

- 17 Q. Must an ICO provide dialing parity and charge its end users the same rates for calls
 18 to a CMRS NPA/NXX as calls to a landline NPA/NXX in the same rate center?
 19 (Section XV.C).
- A. Yes. The FCC rules expressly require dialing parity regardless of the called party's provider and other state commissions and basic principles of fairness and non-discrimination requires ICOs to charge the same end user rates.

Under existing law the ICOs are clearly required to provide dialing parity to CMRS Providers. 47 C.F.R. § 51.207 provides that a "LEC shall permit telephone exchange service customers within a local calling area to dial the same number of digits

to make a local telephone call *notwithstanding the identity of the customer's or the called party's telecommunications service provider*."²⁶ This code section on its face precludes dialing distinctions based on the identity of the telecommunications service provider Further, the FCC has specifically rejected ILEC claims that they do not have to provide dialing parity to CMRS Providers.²⁷ Sprint PCS is not aware of any support for the ICO position that the treatment of originating landline to wireless traffic for dialing purposes is negotiable as opposed to being required by federal law.

Application of the dialing parity rule in this case means that when an ICO enables its end-users to dial NPA-NXXs associated with a distant LEC's rate center on a seven or ten digit basis, then the ICO must also program its switches to permit its end-users to likewise dial the same number of digits to call a CMRS Provider NPA-NXX associated with the distant LEC's same rate center. As identified in Exhibit A attached hereto, several of the ICOs enable their end-users to dial NPA-NXXs in distant LEC rate centers on a non-toll (i.e. 7 or 10 digit basis). As indicated in prior testimony regarding Ben Lomand (pp. 10-11) it is my understanding, however, that unless a CMRS Provider establishes either a "reverse toll billing" or a direct interconnection arrangement, the ICOs typically will not *intentionally* provide dialing parity when those same end-users call a Sprint PCS NPA-NXX associated with the distant LEC rate center.

²⁶ Emphasis added. See also 47 U S C §251(b)(3)

²⁷ See In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Interconnection Between Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers, Area Code Relief Plan for Dallas and Houston CC Docket Nos 96-98, 95-185, 92-237, Second Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order, Release Number: FCC 96-333, 1996 FCC Lexis 4311 (Released. August 8, 1996) at ¶ 68 ("We reject USTA's argument that the section 251(b)(3) dialing parity requirements do not include an obligation to provide dialing parity to CMRS Providers")

H. MISCELLANEOUS

1

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<u>1.</u>	Billing
Q.	What are the appropriate billing mechanisms for the ICOs and the CMRS
	Providers to use to bill each other for the exchange of telecommunications traffic?
A.	The Parties could agree to bill based on actual measurement/records or based on some
	mutually agreed to factor. The Parties could also choose to bill each other or have one of
	the Parties agree to render a net bill. These options are described in APPENDIX A of
	Sprint PCS' proposed Interconnection Agreement.
Q.	In the event the TRA does not adopt bill and keep as the compensation mechanism
	should the Parties agree on a factor to use as a proxy for the mobile-to-land and
	land-to-mobile traffic balance if the CMRS Provider does not measure traffic?
	(Appendix A.I.B.2.)
Α	Yes. There are circumstances under which the Parties may need, or choose, to use
	factors. In situations in which a CMRS Provider does not measure traffic it receives from
	an ICO, or in cases in which the Parties agree that the CMRS Provider will not measure
	such traffic, interconnection agreements usually contain a so-called "traffic ratio"
	stipulating the proportion of total traffic originated by the wireless and wireline carrier.
Q.	In the event that the TRA does not adopt bill and keep as the compensation
	mechanism for all traffic exchanged and if a CMRS Provider and an ICO are
	exchanging only a de minimis amount of traffic, should they compensate each other
	on a bill and keep basis? If so, what level of traffic should be considered de
	minimis? (Appendix A.1. Introduction and A.I.D.)
A.	Bill and keep is an appropriate compensation methodology when the amount of traffic
	does not justify the cost of recording traffic and producing bills. Sprint PCS proposes
	that less than 50,000 minutes per month is de minumis
	Q. A. Q. Q.

If a CMRS Provider and ICO exchange a de minimis level of traffic, they should

compensate each other on a bill and keep basis. The FCC has recognized that transaction costs and administrative burdens are appropriate considerations when analyzing the merits of bill and keep proposals.²⁸ With many ICOs the CMRS Providers exchange a tiny amount of traffic. If the companies were to bill each other for such traffic, the costs of measuring usage, generating a bill, sending the bill, and ensuring collection could exceed the revenues collected from the billing. In such a case, bill and keep is the only reciprocal compensation principle that makes economic sense. Consistent with this analysis, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has ruled that CMRS Providers and ICOs should exchange traffic on a bill and keep basis "until an individual study shows that it is more economically and justifiably appropriate to do otherwise." Sprint PCS recommends that the TRA make the same ruling

2. Generic Contract Provisions (CMRS Issue 16, ICO Issues 10, 17)

Q. ISSUE 16: What standard commercial terms and conditions should be included in the Interconnection Agreement?

16 A. The TRA should adopt the standard terms and conditions contained in Exhibit 2 of the
17 Sprint PCS arbitration petition which are typical in other commercial contracts 30

The CMRS Providers and ICOs have discussed various standard contractual terms such as confidentiality, dispute resolution, indemnification and limitation of

²⁸ See Local Competition Order at ¶ 1112 and Intercarrier Compensation NPRM at ¶ 51.

²⁹ See Corporation Commission of the State of Oklahoma, In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern Bell Wireless L L C et al for Arbitration Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Cause Nos PUD 200200149, PUD 200200150, PUD 200200151, and PUD 200200153, Final Order, Order No 468958 (Oct. 22, 2002).

Specific sections include: Section III - Interpretation and Construction, Section V, Independent Contractors; Section IV, Liability, Section VII, Term of Agreement; Section VIII, Dispute Resolution; Section IX, Third Party Beneficiaries; Section X, Governing Law, Forum and Venue, Section XI, Force Majeure, Section XII, Entire Agreement, Section XIII, Notice, Section XIV, Assignability; Section XV.A Network Managers, Section XVI, Nondisclosure of Proprietary Information, Section XVII, 47 U S.C § 252(1))

- liability provisions. Although there was conceptual agreement on many of these issues,

 there is not agreed upon language for any of them.
- Q. Under what circumstances should either Party be permitted to block traffic or
 terminate the Interconnection Agreement? (Section VII.B&D)
- A. A Party may terminate when the other Party defaults in the payment of any undisputed amount due under the terms of the Agreement, or upon providing requisite notice ninety (90) days prior to the end of the term. All other disputes should be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution procedures proposed by the CMRS Providers. Blocking of traffic should never be permitted.
- 10 Q. Does this conclude your Testimony?
- 11 A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 3, 2004, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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Joseph M. Chiarelli 34 J. J. J. J. J. J. J. J. S. Joseph M. Chiarelli

		Rate	Sprint PCS Numbers		ICO EAS Calling Areas	
LEC	LEC Rate Center	Center Lata	NPA	NXX (s)	Believed to Currently Exist	
BellSouth	CUMBERLAND GAP	466	423	441	CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc New Tazewell and Sharps Chapel exchanges to Cumberland Gap, TN (Local Exchange Service Tariff, General Section A.).	
BellSouth	BROWNSVILLE	468	731	277	Unknown	
BellSouth	DYERSBURG	468	731	882	Unknown	
BellSouth	JACKSON	468	731	293; 298	Unknown	
BellSouth	MEMPHIS	468	901	210; 218; 219; 230; 238; 240; 270; 289; 292; 361; 596; 628; 679; 830	Tinknoum	
BellSouth	CLARKSVILLE	470	931	302; 538	Unknown	
BellSouth	COLUMBIA	470	931	334	Unknown	
BellSouth	MURFREESBORO	470	615	396; 869; 995	DeKalb Milton, Woodbury and Woodland exchanges to Murfreesboro (including Murfreesboro 396, 869, 995). Tennessee Telephone Company - LaVergne exchange to Murfreesboro (General Exchange Tariff, Local Exchange Service, Section 2.1.B).	
BellSouth	NASHVILLE	470	615	364; 400; 403; 414; 429; 438; 473; 479;	Tennessee Telephone Company - LaVergne exchange to Nashville; Laverne exchange to Nashville MAC (Davidson County Customers only); Mt. Juliet exchange to Nashville (General Exchange Tariff, Local Exchange Service, Section 2.1.B)	
BellSouth	SHELBYVILLE	470	931	575	Ben Lomand 394 exchange to Shelbyville 680.	
BellSouth	SPRINGFIELD	470	615	389	Unknown	
BellSouth	TULLAHOMA	470	931	588	Ben Lomand 467 exchange to Tullahoma 393, 454, 455, 461 and Ben Lomand 596 to Tullahoma 393, 454, 455 and 461.	
Citizens	COOKEVILLE	470	931	284	Unknown	
Citizens	CROSSVILLE	470	931	337	Unknown	
BellSouth	CHATTANOOGA	472	423	505; 544	CenturyTel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc Apison, Collegedale and Ooltewah exchanges to Chattanooga (TRA Tariff 1, C.3. Basic Local Exchange Service, Section 3.6.1 Metro Area Calling).	
BellSouth	ATHENS	474	423	381	Tellico Telephone Company, Inc Niota and Riceville exchanges to Athens (Local Exchange Service Tariff, Part 111, Original Sheet 1A).	

TEG	LEC Rate Center	Rate	Sprint PCS Numbers		ICO EAS Calling Areas
LEC		Center Lata	NPA	NXX (s)	Believed to Currently Exist
BellSouth	KNOXVILLE	474	865	300; 384; 385; 386, 405; 406; 684	CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc Sharps Chapel exchange to Knoxville (Local Exchange Service Tariff, Section 3. C. Metro Area Calling); and, Tennessee Telephone Company-Halls Crossroads exchange to Knoxville Metro Calling Area as defined in Tariff of South Central Bell (General Exchange Tariff, Local Exchange Service, Section 2.1.B). Concord 865 Exchange to Knoxville (including Knoxville 300, 384, 385, 386, 405, 406 and 684).
BellSouth	MORRISTOWN	474	423	277	Unknown
BellSouth	ROGERSVILLE	474	423	293	Unknown
BellSouth	SWEETWATER	474	423	371	Tellico Telephone Company, Inc Tellico Plains, Vonore, Coker Creek and Ballplay exchanges to Sweetwater (Local Exchange Service Tariff, Part 111, Original Sheet 1A).
Sprint LTD	ELIZABETHTOWN	956	423	213	None
Sprint LTD	GREENEVILLE	956	423	972	None
Sprint LTD	HAMPTON	956	423	957	None
Sprint LTD	JOHNSON CITY	956	423	943; 946	None
Sprint LTD	KINGSPORT	956	423	963; 967	None
Sprint LTD	LIMESTONE	956	423	948	None
Sprint LTD	MOUNTAIN CITY	956	423	291	Skyline Telephone Membership Corporation

76 Total NPA - NXXs, representing over 560,000 individual telephone numbers.

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Petitio	on of:)
For A	o Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless arbitration Under the ommunications Act of 1996	Consolidate Docket No. 03-00585
	ON BEI VERIZON WIRELESS, CINGULA	7. CRAIG CONWELL HALF OF AR WIRELESS, AT&T WIRELESS OBILE USA
Q.	PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUS	SINESS ADDRESS AND EMPLOYER.
A.	My name is W. Craig Conwell. My bus	iness address is 405 Hammett Road, Greer, South
	Carolina. I am an independent cons analysis.	ultant, specializing in telecommunications cost
Q.	ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TE	STIFYING IN THIS CASE?
A.	I am testifying as the cost witness for	r Verizon Wireless, Cingular Wireless, AT&T
	Wireless and T-Mobile USA. I am not t	estifying on behalf of Sprint PCS.
Q.	PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCA	TIONAL BACKGROUND.
A.	I have a Bachelors degree in Industrial	Engineering from Auburn University in Auburn,
	Alabama and a Master of Science of	legree in Industrial Engineering from Auburn
	University.	

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Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR WORK BACKGROUND.

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I have thirty years of experience in the telecommunications industry. From 1974 to 1979,

I was with South Central Bell Telephone Company, now part of BellSouth. I also
worked for AT&T from 1979 to 1987. During this period, I had a variety of assignments,

ranging from performing service cost studies early in my career to serving as a division
manager in planning, financial management and marketing assignments.

From 1988 to 1996, I was with Arthur Andersen & Co. in its telecommunications consulting practice in New York and Atlanta. I served as a firm-wide expert in telecommunications cost accounting and managed or provided advice on domestic and international consulting projects for telephone companies. These projects included:

- Performing cost studies for pricing telecommunications services.
- Designing cost accounting systems and databases for measuring service costs.
 - Developing cost performance measures for cellular and traditional wireline businesses.
 - Performing reviews of cost models for regulators.
- Benchmarking service costs among telephone companies.

I managed two important cost reviews for regulators while at Arthur Andersen. One was a comparison of U.S. and Canadian toll costs for the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), and the other was a review of Bellcore's Switching Cost Information System (SCIS) for the Federal Communication Commission.

While with Arthur Andersen, I developed and taught for several years a course in service costing for the United States Telephone Association (USTA) given to telephone company employees, regulatory staff and others.

A.

6 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR WORK AS AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT.

Since 1996, much of my work as an independent consultant has been in assisting the SBC local exchange companies – Southwestern Bell, Pacific Bell, Nevada Bell and Ameritech – in developing and supporting cost studies for unbundled network elements, collocation and reciprocal compensation. My role has been to analyze cost models produced by competitive local exchange carriers, to perform ad hoc analyses to address specific cost issues and to assist in cost model development. I have provided expert testimony in California, Nevada, Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Wisconsin on UNE costing, collocation costs or costs for reciprocal compensation. I also have reviewed for wireless carriers independent telephone company cost studies underlying proposed rates for reciprocal compensation.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR CONSULTING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE (CMRS) PROVIDERS IN THIS CASE?

A. I was engaged by the CMRS Providers to review the transport and termination cost studies produced by the Rural Coalition of Small LECs and Cooperatives (the "Coalition companies"). The purpose of the review would be to determine whether the studies meet

the requirements for establishing transport and termination rates and to determine whether the costs provided by the Coalition companies are reasonable.

A.

Q. WHY ARE THE COALITION COMPANY COST STUDIES IMPORTANT?

The FCC rules in 47 CFR 71.705 for establishing incumbent local exchange carrier rates for transport and termination call for rates to be determined based on "forward-looking economic costs" or a bill-and-keep arrangement. Mr. Brown, also testifying on behalf of the CMRS Providers, recommends a bill-and-keep arrangement between the CMRS Providers and the Coalition companies. If the Authority does not adopt the bill-and-keep arrangement, the only permissible approach is to base transport and termination rates on the forward-looking economic costs of each Coalition company. The cost studies are necessary to determine transport and termination rates, if bill-and-keep is not adopted.

Q. DID THE COALITION COMPANIES PROVIDE TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION COST STUDIES DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CMRS PROVIDERS?

A. I have been informed that they did not. 47 C.F.R. § 51.301(c)(8)(ii) requires the Coalition companies to negotiate in good faith by providing "cost data that would be relevant to setting rates if the parties were in arbitration." Based upon information I have received from the CMRS Providers for whom I am testifying, the Coalition companies failed to provide cost studies during the negotiations.

	_	
2		WERE THE COALITION COMPANIES AGAIN ASKED TO PROVIDE COST
3		STUDIES, AND DID THEY PROVIDE THEM?
4	A.	The CMRS Providers requested in their first set of interrogatories cost studies to support
5		transport and termination rates proposed by the Coalition companies. 1 My understanding
6		is that, as of the date of the filing of my testimony, the Coalition companies still have not
7		provided cost studies. So, the CMRS Providers have not been provided any cost support
8		whatsoever for transport and termination rates.
9		
10	Q.	GIVEN THAT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REVIEW COMPANY-

AFTER THE FILING OF THE CONSOLIDATED ARBITRATION PETITIONS,

11 SPECIFIC TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION COSTS, WHAT IS THE 12 PURPOSE OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

13 A. My testimony identifies requirements for cost-based transport and termination rates,
14 which the Coalition companies are obligated to meet. It describes the cost documentation
15 needed by the CMRS Providers and the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority" or
16 "TRA") to evaluate the reasonableness of any proposed rates. In other words, my
17 testimony discusses the burden of proof the Coalition companies must meet, if they wish
18 the TRA to establish reciprocal compensation rates for transport and termination.

20 Q. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COST-BASED RECIPROCAL
21 COMPENSATION RATES?

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¹ "First Set of Interrogatories of the CMRS Providers Directed to Each of the Members of the Rural Coalition of Small LECs and Cooperatives," TRA Docket No 03-00585, Interrogatory I-11.

1	A.	Incumbent local exchange carriers are permitted by the FCC to charge reciprocal -
2		compensation to recover costs for two elements involved in handling traffic from other
3		carriers: (1) transport and (2) termination. The rules for incumbent Local Exchange
4		Carrier (LEC) transport and termination rates are provided at 47 CFR 51.705 (a).
5		
6 7 8 9 10 11 12		 (a) An incumbent LEC's rates for transport and termination of local telecommunications traffic shall be established, at the election of the state commission, on the basis of: (1) the forward-looking economic costs of such offerings, using a cost study pursuant to §§51.505 and 51.511 of this part; (2) default proxies, as provided in §51.707 of this part; or (3) a bill-and-keep arrangement, as provided in §51.713 of this part.
14		Transport and termination rates, if cost-based, are to be based on forward-looking
15		economic costs, which the FCC defines in §51.505 as the sum of total element long-run
16		incremental cost (TELRIC) and a reasonable allocation of forward-looking common
17		costs. In §51.505 (e), the FCC states that rates shall not exceed the forward-looking
18		economic costs.
19		
20 21 22 23 24 25		(e) <u>Cost study requirements</u> . An incumbent LEC must prove to the state commission that the rates for each element it offers do not exceed the forward-looking economic cost per unit of providing the element, using a cost study that complies with the methodology set forth in this section and §51.511 of this part.
26	Q.	HOW ARE TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION DEFINED?

The FCC in §51.701 (c) defines transport as "the transmission and any necessary tandem

switching of local telecommunications traffic subject to section 251 (b)(5) of the Act

from the interconnection point between the two carriers to the terminating carrier's end

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A.

1		office that directly serves the called party, or equivalent facility provided by a carrier
2		other than an incumbent LEC."
3		
4		Termination is defined in §51.701 (d) as "the switching of local telecommunications
5		traffic at the terminating carrier's end office switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of
6		such traffic to the called party's premises." Termination is the usage sensitive portion of
7		the end office switch, excluding the port or non-usage sensitive portion of the switch.
8		Termination excludes the switch line port. It also excludes the subscriber loop.
9		
10	Q.	WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR DETERMINING THE
11		TELRIC OF TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION AND A REASONABLE
12		ALLOCATION OF FORWARD-LOOKING COMMON COSTS?
13	A.	Section §51.505 (b) and (c) define total element long-run incremental cost and forward-
14		looking common costs. Rather than recite the FCC definitions, the following are four
15		specific requirements related to transport and termination costs:
16		
17	•	Plant is to reflect forward-looking technology and costs. Switching, transmission
18		equipment and cable costs utilized for transport and termination are to reflect currently
19		available equipment, at current vendor prices and company-specific discounts.
20	•	Plant capacity is to reflect an efficient network configuration. The utilization levels for
21		end office switching (minutes of use per line) and transport (trunks and minutes of use
22		per trunk) are to represent efficient sizing of network elements.

•	Support asset costs and operating expenses are to be directly attributable to transport
	and termination and forward-looking. Support assets include land, buildings and other
	plant necessary to house and operate switching systems and transport equipment. The
	amounts of these assets are to be reasonable, and their costs are not to reflect embedded
	costs.
	Maintenance expenses associated with switching, transmission equipment and cable
	should exclude provisioning costs associated with retail end-user service connection
	charges. Operating expenses also should not reflect embedded or past operating costs,

• Common costs allocated to transport and termination are to be forward-looking and costs that are efficiently incurred. Common costs include, for example, executive, legal, accounting and other general and administrative costs not directly attributable to individual network elements, such as transport and termination.

but current costs directly attributable to switching and transport.

Q. SHOULD TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION RATES REFLECT COMPANYSPECIFIC COSTS?

A. Yes, switching and transport costs likely vary among the Coalition companies due to differences in network architectures, transport distances and bandwidth, and numerous other factors. Since transport and termination rates are to be based upon an incumbent LEC's forward-looking economic costs, these differences should be reflected in company-specific cost studies.

Q. WHAT COST DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED FROM THE COALITION

COMPANIES?

47 CFR 51.505 (e) (2) specifically requires "a written factual record that is sufficient for purposes of review". It also requires the cost study to be included in the record of this proceeding if the cost study is considered by the Authority for purposes of establishing transport and termination rates. The cost documentation provided by the Coalition companies must be sufficient to validate the reasonableness of transport and termination costs. The CMRS Providers expect cost documentation to show the source of key cost data, such as switching, transmission equipment and cable costs, capacities and utilization levels, expense factors and others. The documentation must demonstrate the reasonableness of these cost data in terms of being specific to the individual company and representative of efficient, forward-looking operations and costs, rather than embedded costs.

A.

Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

16 A. Yes, these are the requirements of the Coalition companies, if they are to base reciprocal
17 compensation on transport and termination costs, rather than bill-and-keep. It is their
18 obligation to produce adequate cost support and to demonstrate the reasonableness of
19 rates. Otherwise, the TRA cannot adopt any rates the Coalition proposes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 3, 2004, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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J. Gray Sasser